

THE MARCH OF TIME

BOOK III

KINGS AND QUEENS, KNIGHTS,
SAINTS AND HEROES

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THE HOUSE OF GRANT LTD
GLASGOW LONDON TORONTO

First published September 1920

**PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE AND CO. LTD
THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, GLASGOW**

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TO THE TEACHER.

THIS book is the third of a set of four, intended as a first history course for schools. While Books I and II gave the story of World History up to the decline of the Roman Empire, Books III and IV continue that history with the emphasis on the *March of Time in Britain* during the last 2000 years.

The approach is through stories of the lives and times of the outstanding figures of British History and those of other countries who had a great effect on that history—as shown in the Contents. Every child should have been brought into contact with the stories of these Great Men and Women at some time during his or her school life.

The encouragement of an historical attitude has been kept in mind throughout the course, so that children may receive some ideas on the gradual evolution of their own civilisation. The date at the head of each chapter will make it easy to design a simple time chart.

The ideas and *the language in which they are expressed* have been kept as simple as possible, in order to suit the ages and minds of the pupils for whom they are intended. Thus the books should be in the hands of the pupils and should be read and browsed over by the pupils themselves.

The *illustrations* are an essential part of the course and should be studied carefully by the children. Each class should make an additional collection of pictures, in order to cover as many aspects as possible of the period concerned. All the details of these pictures should be noticed and discussed in as many ways as possible. They will help to make real the lives and times of the people studied—as compared with our own.

Dramatic work should be utilised at every point where this is possible, while *handwork* of all kinds will impress certain historical details in a way that perhaps no other method can equal.

General suggestions for supplementary work of this nature are given under the heading "*Some Things for You to Do*" on page 36. Further exercises designed to correlate the pupils' history studies with Dramatic Work, Art, Handwork, and English are given at the end of each chapter.

Certain "story" books are mentioned at the end of some chapters. The teacher can suggest others, and create a most valuable historical background by reading extracts from such stories; at the same time those readings might encourage children to read the books themselves, especially if a few copies of each are placed in the class library.

E. C. T. H.
J. J. S.

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HOW THE ROMANS CAME TO BRITAIN TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO

ALL the years in Christian countries date from the birth of Jesus Christ. That event is considered by all Christians as the most important event in the history of the whole world.

In Books I and II of "The March of Time" the stories were mainly of people who lived before Christ was born. For example, Hannibal crossed the Alps in the year 218 *before the birth of Christ*. This date is usually written 218 *B.C.* (Before Christ).

All dates of events that happened *after the birth of Christ* have the letters *A.D.* placed after them; these two letters stand for the two Latin words "*Anno Domini*," which mean "*in the year of Our Lord*."

In this book and the next we are going to hear about some of the most important people who helped to make the history of Britain during the last two thousand years.

This book could have commenced by telling how the Ancient Britons lived in Britain, about one thousand years before the birth of Christ (1000 *B.C.*), which would be 3000 years ago. But, as the story of our history is a long one, it will be better,

perhaps, to commence round about the time of the birth of Christ, *nearly 2000 years ago*.

Perhaps you can understand what a very, very long time ago that was. Your own life already seems a very long one to you, so just try to imagine what a long, long time ago 2000 years ago really was.

If you are ten years old and draw a line one inch

long to stand for the length of your life so far, then a line 10 inches long would represent 100 years. To represent 2000 years you would have to draw a line 200 inches long.



JULIUS CAESAR.

Well, about 2000 years ago, in the year 55 B.C. *Julius Caesar* was the great ruler of the mighty *Roman Empire*.

As you know, that empire had its centre in *Rome* in Italy. In those days Italy was the greatest country in the world, and Rome was the greatest and most important city, with beautiful buildings, where the rich nobles lived in great luxury.

At the time of Julius Caesar, the Roman Empire

held most of southern, central and western Europe, including France. France was called *Gaul* in those days, and it had been conquered by Julius Caesar.

The island of Britain is separated from France,



JULIUS CAESAR AND THE ROMANS LANDING IN BRITAIN
IN 55 B.C.

at the *Straits of Dover*, by only 22 miles of sea. Roman traders had often visited Britain, and knew quite a lot about the country.

Julius Caesar was a great Roman general. After his mighty Roman legions had conquered Gaul, he made up his mind, in the year 55 B.C., to add Britain to the Roman Empire. So in that year he prepared

his many legions, and with 12,000 men set sail from Gaul in 80 ships, across the narrowest part of the English Channel. He landed on the coast of Kent.

To Caesar's surprise, he found that the Britons were brave fighters, and although his men had better weapons and armour, he was forced to make peace and go away. But, the next year, in 54 B.C., he brought 30,000 men in 800 ships, determined this time to show the fierce Britons that they could not stand against the might of Rome.

In that he was again mistaken, for under the leadership of their chief, called *Cassivellaunas*, the Britons offered a great resistance. After much fighting, Julius Caesar again made peace with the British chief; and this time, he and his ships and men left Britain never to return during Caesar's life-time. The Romans did not try again to invade and conquer Britain until nearly 100 years later.

BOADICEA, THE BRITISH WARRIOR QUEEN, DEFIES ROME. 60 A.D.

IN Book II you read how the Romans did not come again to Britain until the year 43 A.D., nearly 100 years after Caesar had invaded Britain in the year 55 B.C. You read something of what happened,

and how the brave British chief *Caractacus* was defeated, and taken prisoner to Rome.

But the Romans had not conquered all the Britons. As soon as one part of Britain appeared to be conquered, another British chief arose elsewhere, and fought against the Romans.

One of the greatest of these warriors was a woman.

Her name was *Boadicea*; and she was *Queen of the Iceni*, a tribe that lived in the part of Britain that is now called Norfolk and Suffolk.

At the time of this story she was a widow, for her husband the king of the Iceni had just died. Before he died, he left one half of his property to the Romans, and the other half to his wife and daughters. In that way he hoped that the Romans would leave his loved ones in peace.



A ROMAN SOLDIER.

The Romans, however, took some of Boadicea's property also, made her pay heavy taxes, and humbled her and her people in many ways. Boadicea was very angry about this. She complained to *Catus* the Roman officer, but he only laughed at her, and ordered his soldiers to beat her with rods, to make

her more humble. When this beating occurred, her daughters, who were with her, tried to defend their mother, but they also were insulted and cruelly treated in front of their own mother.

Boadicea was a proud woman, with a truly great spirit. She swore before her gods to be avenged, or to die before she would submit to those cruel and unjust Romans.

When the Britons heard what had happened to their queen, whom they loved and honoured, they were very angry and determined to avenge her.

Boadicea gradually collected a large army of Britons, and when the Roman governor *Paulinus*

was fighting the Britons elsewhere, in *Anglesey*, she marched her army against the Romans.

Before the march, Boadicea stood on a mound of earth and addressed her army. She was a splendid sight—a tall, strong woman with fiery eyes, and she looked every inch a queen. Her golden hair reached to her hips; over her dress she wore a thick mantle fastened with a golden brooch; around her neck she



A BRITISH WARRIOR.



**BOADICEA MAKES A STIRRING SPEECH TO HER WARRIORS,
BEFORE THE BATTLE WITH THE ROMANS.**

Notice the chariot, the knives on the wheels, the tiress, shields and weapons of the British.

wore a golden collar ; and in her hand she held a spear.

In a loud, strong and clear voice she cried :
“ We fight for *freedom against slavery*. The Romans treat us as slaves. We must fight them ! We are better fighters than they are, in spite of their armour and weapons. We are hardier than they ; they cannot endure hunger and thirst as we can, nor cold and heat as we do .

“ They call ‘us *Barbarians*. But we are *real* men and women, with strong blood in our veins. We will *not* be slaves to the Romans. We will fight them, and throw them into the sea, just as our ancestors did to Julius Caesar one hundred years ago ! ”

The Britons were fired by these stirring words. They marched against the Roman cities, captured them, and took much plunder. They entered *Colchester* and *London*, which was then a small trading centre, and with great fury destroyed everything that was Roman, including thousands of Romans themselves.

Hearing of this serious rebellion, *Paulinus* hurried from Anglesey. His army was smaller than that of Boadicea, but it was well armed and well trained. Just before the battle, he addressed his soldiers :—

“ Fellow soldiers and fellow Romans ! You have heard what these pests of Britons and their queen have done to us, and we have seen what they do to

the people they capture. 'To-day, be brave, and we shall soon defeat this great mob of *Barbarians* !'

Paulinus then gave the order for battle.



THE STATUE OF BOADICEA AT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

Many of the Britons drove into the battle in chariots, drawn by high-spirited horses. Queen Boadicea herself led these chariots, her two daughters sitting on either side of her.

Standing upright, with her golden hair and her robe streaming behind her, she encouraged her men

to great deeds of bravery. As her chariot raced through the Romans, the sharp sword-like knives on each wheel cut the legs from under the Roman foot soldiers.

The battle went on for a long time, but the skill and the better arms of the Roman soldiers were too much for the Britons. They were forced to flee, and with them Boadicea also.

At last she and a few of her faithful men and women followers found themselves in a quiet wood. Boadicea sat by herself on a fallen tree. She was heart-broken at this defeat. She knew that everything was ended for her; and she knew the terrible things that would happen to her if the Romans captured her.

Rather than be captured by the Romans she ended her life by drinking a cup of poison.

Many of the rebel Britons suffered cruelly at the hands of the Romans, who were merciless.

In time, the Britons felt that it was useless to rebel against the mighty Romans, so that Boadicea's rebellion was the last of the great rebellions in Britain against the Romans. From that time, it could be said that Britain was a *Roman province*; and it remained so for about four hundred years.

1. In your note-book write the date 55 B.C. Opposite it write what happened in that year.

2. On the next line do the same for the year 43 A.D.
3. What does A.D. mean when written after any year?
4. Why did Boadicea rebel against the Romans?

HOW THE ROMANS KEPT OUT THE PICTS AND SCOTS. HADRIAN'S WALL. 122 A.D.

THE Romans stayed in Britain for about 400 years. You will agree that this was a very long time.

During that long time the Romans taught the Britons many useful things, and we can see some of the results of their work even to this day.

From Rome, the Romans brought with them their civilisation, which means their *way of living*. Naturally they wanted the same things that they had been used to when they lived in Rome—the same food, clothes and shelter, and the same comforts.

They built houses, forts, and castles for their own use, and fitted them up with all the things they wanted. They even had wonderful hot water baths, and a hot air system for warming the larger houses. After some years, the towns in Britain were larger, and better built, with fine roads and public squares.

The Romans built excellent *roads*. A Roman road was usually a straight road, taking the shortest



A ROMAN VILLA IN BRITAIN ABOUT 200 A.D.

Notice the handsome building, the paved churchyard and the fountain. Notice how the mother, father and children are dressed. What game are the children playing?

route from one place to another. Some of our modern motor roads to-day are in the same places as the Roman roads that were first laid down by the

Romans 1800 years ago.

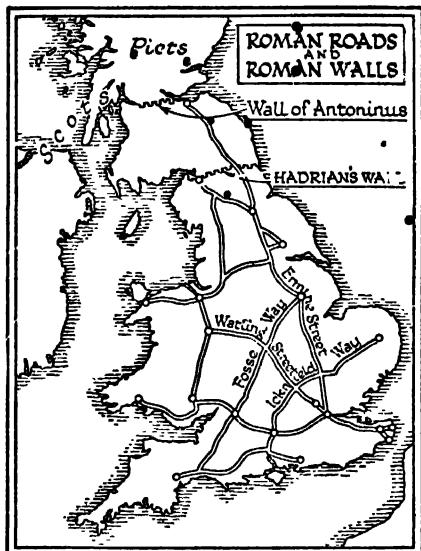
Watling Street was an old Roman road, leading from North West London to Chester ; the modern motor road still takes the same route.

But we must not think that the Romans, strong as they were, had an entirely peaceful time in Britain, after they had conquered the Britons under Caractacus and Boadicea.

To the Romans, the northern half of Britain appeared to be a bare, useless land of moors, mountains, rivers and bogs. And the few people who lived there seemed to be a race of wild barbarians.

Those people of the North, who lived in what we call today *Scotland*, were called the *Picts* and the *Scots*. The *Picts* were the true natives of Scotland, while the *Scots* were really Irishmen, who had left Ireland to settle in Scotland.

Those *Picts* and *Scots* were always a great trouble



The Romans built fine roads.

to the Romans, as well as to the Britons. They made raids on the farms and villages to the south, taking off animals, crops and anything of value, and killing any of the Britons who resisted them.



A SCOT.



A PICT.

Such a nuisance were they to the Britons and to the Romans, that the Romans were forced to build defences against them. The best defence in those days was a line of forts, so the Romans built a whole line of these forts along the Northern Borderlands—from Carlisle to the River Tyne. This line of forts was joined together by a kind of wall that was wide enough for chariots to run along.

One of the great Roman generals in Britain who



ROMAN SOLDIERS ON GUARD AT HADRIAN'S WALL.
Notice the wall itself, the forts, the soldiers on guard and their
armour.
Can you see the soldier walking on top of the wall, in the distance?
Which is the north side of the wall?

had most to do with the building of this long wall of forts was *Hadrian*. That is why it is called—even today—*Hadrian's Wall*. Hadrian came to Britain about 40 years after the death of Boadicea.

This long wall can still be traced today for many miles—from *Carlisle* to *Newcastle*, running almost directly west to east, right across Britain. It was built in a wonderful position, overlooking miles of moorland to the north and miles of moorland to the south.

On the north side a deep ditch was dug, so that enemies from the north would not only have to cross that deep ditch, but would also have to climb a much higher wall on that side. And meanwhile, the Roman soldiers guarding the wall and its forts would be waiting for them.

One can imagine the busy scenes of work, while this wall and its forts were being built. Great camps of Roman soldiers directed the work, most of which was done by Britons who were forced to do all the heavy work by their Roman masters.

And at night, in winter and summer, the lonely Roman sentries paced along the top of the broad wall, ready to give the alarm at the slightest warning of an attack from the wild Picts and Scots.

1. At the top of a page in your note-book write the dates 43 A.D.-409 A.D. Opposite those dates write "*The Romans in Britain*".

2. Write five or six useful things that the Romans did while they were in Britain.
3. Who were the Picts? Who were the Scots?
4. Say what you know of Hadrian's Wall.
5. Imagine you are a Roman soldier on guard at night near a fort on Hadrian's Wall. Give an account of your most thrilling adventure there.
6. "Puck of Pook's Hill" by Rudyard Kipling is a story about Hadrian's Wall. Ask your teacher to read to you some of the adventures.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE ROMANS LEFT BRITAIN AFTER 400 YEARS. 410 A.D.

THE Roman Empire was the greatest empire in the world for hundreds of years. Its boundaries in Europe were roughly the river *Rhine* and the river *Danube*. The Empire also included North Africa and Asia Minor, so that the *Mediterranean Sea* and all the lands surrounding it were under Roman rule.

But, as time went on, after hundreds of years of being world conquerors, the Romans found it more and more difficult to protect their large empire from outside peoples—all of whom they called the *Barbarians*.

Just as the Picts and Scots in Britain raided the British and Roman settlements south of Hadrian's

Wall, so the fighting tribes of northern and eastern Europe were continually raiding Roman possessions on the borders of this vast empire.

Although only a nuisance to the Romans at first, as time went on, the Barbarians began to defeat them in various regions.

As we saw in Book II, the wonderful city of Rome itself was threatened, and eventually sacked by *Alaric the Goth* in the year 410 A.D. It was also besieged by the terrible *Attila the Hun*.

Before those events occurred, the Romans from the farthest places of the Empire were recalled to protect the city of Rome itself. For that reason the Roman generals and governors and soldiers in Britain received orders to leave Britain, and bring their legions back to defend their own country and their wonderful city, Rome, from the Barbarians.

This they did, so that after nearly 400 years of Roman rule, during which the Britons had become thoroughly used to the Romans and their ways of living, Britain was left without the Romans. The last Romans left Britain in the year 410 A.D.

One would think that the Britons were pleased with this state of affairs. But, on the whole they were not pleased. You will soon see why.

When the Romans left, there was no proper army to defend the Britons against the raids of their old enemies, the Picts and Scots in the

north. The Britons were left almost defenceless, for they had depended on the Roman soldiers to defend them for 400 years.

The country was soon in a great muddle, for the *rulers* had gone, and the *defenders* had gone.

The British tribes began to quarrel and to have wars with each other. Then the fierce *Picts* and *Scots*, as soon as they found the Romans had gone, swarmed over Hadrian's Wall, and began their raids—burning, robbing and killing wherever they went.



A SAXON CHIEF.

To add to these troubles, Britain itself began to be visited by Barbarian tribes from across the North Sea. These *Northmen* were pirates. They were the *Angles*, *Saxons* and *Jutes*—all fierce sea-raiders. They raided coastal villages from their ships, sailed up the eastern rivers, burning villages, taking

the crops and cattle and any other valuables they could lay their hands on, and killing the Britons—men, women and children.

The Britons found themselves in a very bad state after the peace-giving Romans had left Britain to defend their own Empire.

One thing we must remember before we finish talking about the Romans in Britain. It is that when the Romans left Britain in the year 410 A.D., *most of the Britons were Christians*. The Romans had brought Christianity to Britain about 100 years before, when *Constantine* was made Emperor of Rome in the year 306 A.D. In Book II we read how Constantine was the first emperor of Rome to be a Christian.

1. When did the Romans leave Britain? Why?
2. Write a few lines on Alaric the Goth, Atilla the Hun, the Emperor Constantine, and Hadrian.
3. Were the Britons heathen or Christian when the Romans left Britain?
4. What had the Romans done for Britain during the 400 years they were there?

THE ANGLES AND SAXONS INVADE BRITAIN—450 A.D.

WE have seen in Book II, and in the last chapter, that the Roman Empire was invaded by the wild tribes or “barbarians” from the lands outside it. Some of the fiercest of those barbarians were *seamen*, who lived along the shores of Germany and Denmark.

When the Romans left the Britons to defend their own homeland, some of those fierce seamen crossed

the North Sea in their ships, and began to raid the defenceless coasts of Britain. The most important of those tribes were the *Angles*, *Saxons* and *Jutes*.



ANGLES AND SAXONS LANDING IN KENT.

Study carefully the ships and how the invaders are dressed.
Notice their weapons.

Their ships used to sail up to a river mouth, and often up the river itself.

When the ship came to a village, the fierce seamen landed, killed anyone who resisted them, and took as many cattle, crops and valuables as they could find room for in their ships. Then they set fire to the village, and sailed away again to their native land, on the other side of the North Sea.

Such raids on Britain occurred for many years after the Romans left. Those pirates were a nightmare to all the men, women and children along the eastern coastal lands of Britain. The Britons were almost helpless, because they had no army, and had relied for 400 years on the Roman soldiers to defend them.

At first the seamen came only *to raid* and then go home again. Later they began to stay, and *to settle* along the coast of Britain, for they found that this land of eastern Britain was a much easier country to live in than their own.

In the year 449 A.D. the British king, who was hard pressed by the Picts and Scots, promised land and money to two of the chiefs of these raiders if they would help him to drive out the Picts and Scots.

The names of these two chiefs were *Hengist* and *Horsa*. They and their men were given a part of Kent.

But, as soon as the Picts and Scots were defeated, Hengist and Horsa turned on the Britons, defeated them, and killed every Briton they met.

Then they sent news to their relatives across the sea, telling them what a fine country they were living in, and telling them to come over also.

Soon their friends came swarming across the North Sea, the heads of their ships all pointing towards Britain. The ships landed, and the invaders came ashore—with their shields, their stout helmets,

their sharp swords and their heavy battle-axes. The Britons fled before them or were killed. The Angles, Saxons and Jutes took their lands, their cattle, and their houses and made up their minds to settle.

A writer of those times said, "They plundered all the cities and country, and spread fire from the eastern to the western sea, and they spread to almost every part of the island."

As more and more of these foreign invaders came to Britain, the Britons were forced to flee farther and farther west, until at last they were living in the highlands of *Devon* and *Cornwall*, and in the mountains of *Wales*.

In this way, during the next 150 years, the southern and eastern half of the island of Britain was occupied and settled by the Angles, Saxons and Jutes; and they never left this pleasant and fertile land.

Eventually this land came to be called the *Land of the Angles* or *Angle-land*. And that is how *England* got its name. The ancestors of the English people today were those fierce seamen who first came across the North Sea about the year 450 A.D.

The *Welsh* and the *Cornish* people are the descendants of the Britons.

Those *Britons* took their Christian religion with them to their new lands of the west country; and they taught their children to be Christians.

Their conquerors—the Angles, Saxons and Jutes

—were not Christians, and they set up their own gods in the land they had conquered.

1. Write these words in your note-book: "*Britain invaded by the — — — and — — in — — A.D.*"

Fill in the missing words and figures.

2. Why was England called "England"?
3. Draw or trace a map to show from what lands came the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Draw arrows from those lands to England.
4. Where were the Britons driven to?
5. Make a drawing or a plasticine model of a *Saxon ship*.

SOME THINGS FOR YOU TO DO

I. Collect all kinds of pictures dealing with each of the chapters in this book.

Your parents, friends and teachers will help you to collect the pictures.

II. Get a scrap book or a note-book and paste the pictures you collect into this book.

III. Be careful to keep the pictures dealing with any one chapter in the same part of the book.

IV. Copy drawings that would make good pictures for this book. Add any pictures that you make up yourself.

V. Put a cover on the book you make. On this cover print the title:

My Own Picture BookofThe March of Time in Britain

VI. Try to make models of some of the things and some of the scenes mentioned in this book.

You can use plasticine, clay, paper, cardboard, match sticks, boxes, cloth, pins, or anything you like.

Your teacher and parents will give you help—if you need it.

VII. Try to answer the questions at the end of each chapter. If you find you cannot answer a question, read the chapter again. Then you will be able to answer it.

* * * * *

THE STORY OF SAINT PATRICK.

465 A.D.

While the heathen *Angles*, *Saxons* and *Jutes* gradually occupied most of England, the Christian religion went with the *Britons* to Wales and to the west of England, leaving the foreign invaders with their heathen gods.

At that time, a British boy named *Patrick* lived in South Wales. His father was a farmer, and all the people in his village were Christians.

One day, when *Patrick* was sixteen years old,

there was a raid on his village by pirates from Ireland. His home was destroyed, and he and many others were taken as slaves to Ireland.

Patrick's work as a slave was looking after his master's sheep on the hills. He was a good young man, and he refused to

keep thoughts of hate in his mind against his masters. Rather did he try to do as Jesus, his Master, had said, "Love your enemies."

After a time, Patrick hoped that one day he might be able to tell these Irishmen about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He often thought about this while he was minding his master's sheep.



SAINT PATRICK. Note the snake.

One night, after he had said his prayers, he felt that he would never be able to preach the gospel if he remained a slave. So he decided to escape.

Some nights later, he had his chance. He quietly left the place where he had been a slave for six years.

After many days of walking and hiding, he at last reached the sea coast. And there he saw a ship ready

to leave the port. The captain took pity on Patrick, and allowed him to hide on board. Before long, he was back in his old home.

His parents were delighted to see him again, and hoped that he would now stay with them always.

Perhaps Patrick would have liked to do this, but he seemed to be continually hearing a voice telling him to go back to Ireland, to tell the Irish people of Jesus.

He studied hard, and was always doing good deeds. He was looked upon as such a holy man that at last he had the chance of going to France to study in a monastery. Later, he became such a wise and holy man that he was made a bishop.

In the year 432 A.D., he returned to Ireland with a few followers. He knew that he might be killed, for the pagan *Druid* priests in Ireland were very cruel to those who did not believe in their heathen gods. But Patrick was not afraid.

Being a very wise man, he knew that, if the king and his nobles became Christians, they would allow him to preach his message all over Ireland. So to the king's palace he went.

It was evening when he came in sight of the palace. He was told that the king and his Druids were having a great feast in honour of the gods of the Druids, and that bonfires were to be lit.

The king had given an order that only when a fire was lit on the roof of the palace, were the other bon-

fires to be lit in honour of the gods. If anyone disobeyed that order he would be killed. It was getting dark, and everyone was eagerly waiting and looking for the 'king's fire to be lit.

Just before it was quite dark, to the king's surprise and anger, he saw in the distance the flames of a fire reaching upwards and sending a glow for miles around. Immediately he sent a company of soldiers in their chariots to arrest the bold and foolish man, who had dared to disobey his orders.

So Patrick was brought before the angry king. But Saint Patrick looked such a gentle, kind, quiet man, that the king asked him what he wanted.

Then Saint Patrick told him why he had come, namely to tell him and the Irish people of the true *God of Love* and of the love of *Jesus Christ*. His words made such a good impression on the king that Saint Patrick was told that he could go where he liked in Ireland, and tell his story to whoever was willing to listen.

From that day Saint Patrick began his life's work, of preaching the Christian way of life to the Irish people. Wherever he and his followers went, they told the story of Jesus, built a small wooden church, and baptised many people.

Saint Patrick did not stay in any place very long, but wherever he went, he left monks and priests

behind, who could carry on his work. Many monasteries were built, and there the monks lived the good life. By Saint Patrick's work many of the Irish people became Christians, while the people of England were still heathen.



SAINT PATRICK BEFORE THE KING OF IRELAND.

At his death in the year 465 A.D. he was made a saint, and, as you all know, he is now the *patron saint of Ireland*.

1. Make up a little play about Saint Patrick, when he appeared before the king.
2. Why has Ireland been called the "Isle of Saints"?
3. In which century did Saint Patrick live?

THE COMING OF CHRISTIANITY TO SCOTLAND—SAINT COLUMBA AND IONA ISLAND. 565 A.D.

IN the last chapter we saw how Saint Patrick converted the Irish to Christianity.

We shall see in a later chapter how the coming of Saint Augustine to Kent did most to help the people of *southern* England to become Christians.

In *Scotland* and in *Northumbria*, however, the people were taught to be Christians from other sources—mainly by monks from Ireland.

Because of the wisdom and holiness and the Christian work of Saint Patrick, and because of the monks and nuns and teachers from Ireland, who carried on his work, Ireland has sometimes been called the “*Isle of Saints*.”

One of the most famous of these saints is Saint Columba, who was an Irishman.

Saint Columba.—In one of the Irish monasteries built by Saint Patrick was an Irish boy, who was taught by the monks. He came of a noble family, and he was a very good pupil, always eager to do his lessons properly. He was given the name *Columba* by the other boys, because he was so quiet. *Columba* is the Latin word for dove.

He liked quietness so much that he made up his mind to be a monk. He tried hard to learn everything he should know, not only from books, but in the fields and in the monastery, for you will remember that the monks in monasteries had to do all things for themselves—making things, growing things, building, washing and cleaning.

When Columba became a monk, he was so good and so clever that he built a large monastery in *Derry* in Northern Ireland; and he was made the abbot of the many monks there. Those monks thought that no monastery ever had a better or wiser abbot than they.

But Columba was obliged to leave his monastery in Ireland ; so one day he and twelve monks got into a small boat at Derry, and sadly rowed away from Northern Ireland and their beloved monastery.

The boat was rowed in the direction of southwest *Scotland*, and finally landed at the small island of *Iona*. This was on the eve of Whit Sunday in the year 565 A.D.—one hundred years after Saint Patrick had died.

The king who owned the island of Iona was a relative of Columba, and he gave him this island, saying :

“ You may do with this island anything you wish. If you wish to make your home here, you may do so.” •

Columba made up his mind to build a monastery on Iona, and one that would be an even better monastery than the large one that he had left.



SAINT COLUMBA AND HIS MONKS CROSS THE STORMY SEAS TO IONA.

In a few days, he and his monks set to work. They first built a small church of wood, wattles and clay. Then they built huts shaped like bee-hives for themselves, where they could live and sleep.

They dug the land and sowed their seed, for they intended to make Iona their future home.

Columba was a very clever man, a very wise man, and a very holy man. Soon other monks came to listen to him, and to learn from him. They asked him if they could stay; and if they were good monks, Columba allowed them to work in the monastery and to build huts for themselves.

In that way a monastery grew up on the island of Iona, with Columba as its abbot.

Now Columba knew that the *Picts* of Scotland were heathen, and he felt that his work for God was to teach the heathen Picts to be Christians, just as Saint Patrick had taught the Irish.

He first went to the Picts who lived on the mainland opposite Iona. There he taught the Picts about the one true God. Later he spent some time near Inverness, where he persuaded *Bruda* the king of the Picts to become a Christian.

This king then sent out an order to all his subjects, saying that they should follow his example. Many were baptised, and Saint Columba went back to Iona feeling very happy.



SAINT COLUMBA.

Soon monks were being sent from Iona to many parts of western Scotland and its islands, until it could be said that Saint Columba did for Scotland what Saint Augustine was later to do for England, namely, he sowed the seeds of Christianity there..

Because of Saint Columba, *Iona* became such a holy place that, for hundreds of years, *the kings of Scotland were crowned there*. There was a special stone—a coronation stone—on which all Scottish kings had to sit while they were being crowned. Later this stone was moved to *Scone* near Perth; and you will read in a later chapter how King Edward I of England took that stone to *Westminster Abbey*, where it still remains under the seat of the Coronation Chair.

1. Draw or trace a map of Northern Ireland and south-west Scotland. Mark *Londonderry* and *Iona Island*.
2. When Columba and his monks settled in Iona, what did they do in the first year? Give full details.
3. Say in one sentence what was the great work done by Saint Columba.



Have you started your PICTURE BOOK?

SAINT AUGUSTINE BRINGS
CHRISTIANITY TO KENT, IN ENGLAND.

597 A.D.

WE have seen that the fierce seamen—the Angles, Saxons and Jutes—turned out the British, and later gave the name Angle-land or *England* to the southern half of Britain. We also saw that the British people fled to the western highlands of Wales and Cornwall, and that they continued to be Christian.

The Angles, Saxons and Jutes were *not* Christians ; they had never heard of Christ. They worshipped fierce, war-like gods, such as *Thor* and *Woden*.

It is interesting to know that our days of the week are named after some of their gods. Tuesday means *Tu's day*, Wednesday means *Woden's day*, Thursday means *Thor's day*, Friday means the *day of Friea*, a goddess ; Sunday is the *Sun's day*, Monday is the *Moon's day*, and Saturday means *Saturn's day*.

In Book II you read of *Saint Benedict* the hermit, and how he taught monks to live the good life in a monastery by keeping the Rule of Benedict. It was mainly through the teaching of the holy Saint Benedict that monasteries grew up all over Western Europe. He died in the year 543.

A very interesting story is told of how *Saint*

Gregory, a Pope of Rome, came to send a Benedictine monk named *Augustine* to England, in the year 597—to try to convert the heathen English.

The story tells that, one day, Saint Gregory was



SAINT GREGORY SEES THE FAIR ENGLISH CHILDREN
IN THE SLAVE MARKET AT ROME.

walking through the slave market in Rome. He noticed that, as usual, there were many slaves for sale—men, women and children of all ages. Gregory was used to such sights ; but, on that particular day, he noticed some very beautiful children for sale.

In appearance they were very different from the dark-skinned, dark-haired children of the Romans.

They had very fair skins, lovely long golden hair, and bright blue eyes ; but they looked very sad.

He asked where those lovely children had come from. He was told they were *Angles* from Britain.

“ *Angles* ! ” replied Gregory, “ They look more like *angels* to me ! ” By their beautiful faces, they should be friends with the angels in heaven.”

Gregory walked away, deep in thought. From that moment he was determined that the gospel of Jesus Christ should be taken to the heathen peoples of Britain, who had such beautiful children.

He wanted to go himself, but the citizens of Rome said they could not spare him. Some years after this, when he was made the Pope of Rome, he arranged that *Augustine*, a prior of a Benedictine monastery, should make the long and dangerous journey from Rome to Britain. Augustine was to take forty monks with him.

So one day, Augustine and his forty monks left Rome for the long journey, on foot, across Europe to England. After many days, they stopped at a certain monastery in France ; there they heard so many stories of the barbarian *Angles* that they became afraid to go to England. They begged Augustine to go back to Rome, to obtain permission to give up the dangerous journey.

Pope Gregory was angry when he heard what Augustine had to say.

“No!” he cried, “God has called you to this task. And remember the great rule of Saint Benedict, which is ‘*Obedience*.’ I cannot excuse you from this journey. You must go!”

At these words Augustine felt ashamed, and from that moment he was determined to obey the commands of Gregory and go to England.

He hurried back to where he had left the forty monks, and encouraged them to continue the journey. They became much more cheerful when he told them that *Ethelbert*, the king of Kent, was married to Queen *Bertha*, who was a Christian and who had a Christian bishop with her.

Augustine and his band of monks were now much happier. They landed on the *Isle of Thanet*, in Kent, on a bright Spring day in the year 597 A.D.

Augustine immediately sent messengers to King Ethelbert to say that they had come all the way from Rome, and had brought a joyful message.

Queen Bertha was overjoyed to hear that the Pope had sent monks from Rome, and she persuaded her husband, who loved her very much, to hear what Augustine had to tell, and to treat him kindly.

Some days later, King Ethelbert went to the Isle of Thanet with his wife and nobles. He sent for Augustine, and he and his court waited for him, all seated in the open air. Ethelbert would not meet him inside a house, because he was afraid of magic.



SAINT AUGUSTINE PREACHING TO KING ETHELBERT.
What was the name of the king's wife?

After a short time Augustine and his band of monks were seen walking slowly to where the king was sitting. One monk held aloft a large silver cross, another carried a picture of Jesus painted on a board, while all chanted a litany, praying that God would help them in their work.

King Ethelbert then said, "Tell me your message."

Augustine then told the king about Jesus Christ, and what one did to be a Christian.

Partly to please his wife, and partly because he felt there was something very good about these strangers, King Ethelbert said :

"Your words and your promises are very fair. But they are new to us, and I cannot understand all you have said. For myself, I cannot give up my own gods that I have always worshipped, until I learn more about your God.

"But, I see you are good men, and I give you permission to preach to my people. *Anyone in my land who wishes to become a Christian may do so.*"

After a few words with his queen, Ethelbert told Augustine that he could stay in Canterbury, the chief town, and do whatever he wished to do.

So Augustine and his monks went to *Canterbury*. At first they used a little church that the Romans had built near Canterbury, many years before. The remains were still there, and it was the small church where Queen Bertha used to pray.

When the people saw what holy lives these strangers were living, and how good and kind they were, many wanted to become Christians. Soon many were baptised, and became followers of Christ.

Meanwhile Queen Bertha was hoping that her husband the king would be baptised, and she often talked to him about this.

At last Ethelbert and his nobles met together to decide whether they all should become Christians or not. They asked Augustine many questions about Jesus Christ, about the Pope and about Rome.

Finally Ethelbert decided to be baptised, to the great delight of his loving wife. Many of his nobles also wanted to become Christians. They were all baptised on Whitsunday of the year 597 A.D.

Canterbury became the head-quarters of the Christian Church in England, and has remained so to this day—nearly 1400 years after Augustine first came to Kent.

1. Write the date 597 A.D. in your notebook. Opposite this date write the title of this chapter.
2. Why were Augustine and his monks at first afraid? When were they no longer afraid?
3. Write two sentences about each of the following:—Ethelbert, Bertha, Thanet, Canterbury, Saint Benedict, Pope Gregory.

4. Make a little play showing the meeting of King Ethelbert with Saint Augustine and his monks. Then act the play.

HOW CHRISTIANITY CAME TO NORTHUMBRIA. SAINT PAULINUS. SAINT AIDAN AND HOLY ISLE. 635 A.D.

SAINT Augustine, who first taught Christianity to the Jutes of Kent, died in A.D. 604. During his life in England, he and his monks preached throughout the whole of eastern England, *except Northumbria*. Northumbria was all the country north of the river Humber and south of the river Forth.

In the year 625 A.D. *Edwin* was the king of Northumbria ; and it is from him that *Edinburgh* received its name, which means *Edwin's town*. Now Edwin, who was not a Christian, had just married *Ethelburga* the daughter of Ethelbert, the king of Kent and eastern England.

Ethelburga and Edwin loved each other very much. Queen Ethelburga was a Christian like her mother. Before she agreed to marry Edwin, she had received his promise that not only could she continue to be a Christian, but that she could take with her the monk *Paulinus*.

Paulinus was made a bishop, and he travelled north with Ethelburga to King Edwin's court.

Paulinus often talked to the king, and he and Ethelburga almost persuaded him to become a Christian. At last, the king felt that he ought to have a meeting of all the wise men, to discuss such an important matter. If the meeting of the wise men, or the *Witan* as it was called, thought that Christianity was the true religion, then they could all become Christians together.

When the *Witan* was gathered together at the palace, King Ethelbert asked each in turn what he thought about these things.

The chief priest of the old religion, whose name was *Coifi*, answered :

“ O king, I think we should listen most carefully to this new religion. Our present religion seems to do good to no one, not even to me; and I am the Chief Priest.”

One of the king's nobles then said :

“ If this new religion can tell us more about our future life than our present religion does, then I would like to be a Christian.”

Many of the king's nobles agreed, saying :

“ Let us hear the words of Paulinus.”

King Edwin then called in *Paulinus* and asked him to tell the *Witan* about Jesus Christ. This *Paulinus* did, and as he was a very fine speaker, and a good teacher, the *Witan* eagerly listened to him.

When he had finished, the high priest *Coifi* cried out :

“ This is the religion we should have, O king ! I advise that we immediately destroy and set fire to the temples of our old gods, for they are useless.”



SAINT PAULINUS TELLS KING EDWIN AND THE WITAN ABOUT CHRISTIANITY. Which one is Coifi ?

“ Who will do this ? ” asked the king.

“ Who more proper than myself ? ” cried Coifi. “ If I, the high priest, destroy the temples, it will act as an example to all the people.”

Then immediately he mounted a fiery horse, and with a spear in his hand, and a sword at his side, he rode hard for the nearest temple. As soon as

HOW CHRISTIANITY CAME TO NORTHUMBRIA 57

he reached the temple he threw his spear at the door. This was supposed to be a great insult to the gods.

The crowd was hushed. They expected to see the high priest struck dead.



COIFI THE HIGH PRIEST ATTACKS AND DESTROYS THE TEMPLE OF HIS GODS.

Nothing happened to him. He jumped off his horse; and ordered his men to destroy the temple and the idols inside, and then to set fire to it.

Thus it was that Edwin, his nobles and many of the people of Northumbria came to be Christians through the work of *Saint Paulinus*.

Saint Oswald and Saint Aidan.—In the year 633 A.D. King Edwin's kingdom of Northumbria was invaded by the heathen king of the Mercians, whose name was *Penda*. At a great battle King Edwin was slain, and thousands of men, women and children were killed. Queen Ethelburga, with her children and Paulinus, fled by sea to her father's palace in Kent, where she was born.

Saint Paulinus never returned to Northumbria.

But the next year, *Oswald*, the leader of the Northumbrians, defeated king *Penda*, and turned the invaders out of Northumbria. Oswald then became king.

Oswald was a Christian and he wanted to continue the good work of Paulinus. As a young man Oswald had gone to live with the northern Picts in Scotland. There he had been taught Christianity, and had been baptised by monks from *Columba's monastery in Iona*.

Hence, when Oswald became king, he sent to the island of *Iona* for monks who would continue the good work of Paulinus.

The first priest sent from Iona was not very suitable. He was not a very good teacher, and he was much too stern a man. As a result the Northumbrians did not understand his teaching, and did not like him.

He returned to the island of Iona a very disappointed man, for he had made very few Christians.

HOW CHRISTIANITY CAME TO NORTHUMBRIA 59

He reported his work to the abbot and monks at the monastery of Iona, and ended by saying that he was unable to convert the Northumbrians, as they were such a wild, ignorant and obstinate race.



THE MONKS OF COLUMBA AT IONA CHOOSE AIDAN TO
PREACH TO THE BRITISH.

Which monk in the picture is Aidan?

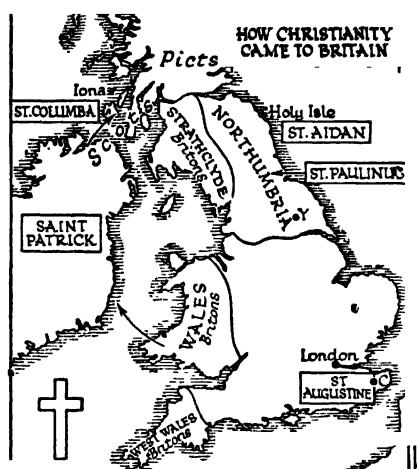
Now, one of the monks listening to this story was *Aidan*, a quiet, gentle and humble monk. At last, in a soft and gentle voice, he said :

“ It seems, my father, that you have been rather harsh with these simple people. It might have been better if you had been more patient with them. You could then have led them gently and gradually to the knowledge of God and his Son, Jesus Christ.

The abbot of Iona and the other monks were

struck by the wisdom of Aidan's words. And knowing how good and clever he was, they said :

" You are the very man to go to Northumbria, to teach and to preach to those simple people."



NOTE THE NAMES OF THE FIVE SAINTS.

So *Saint Aidan*, from the 'Celtic' Church of Iona, went to Northumbria, and carried on the good work of Paulinus, who had come from the Roman Church of Saint Augustine at Canterbury.

Saint Aidan wanted to build a monastery of his own for this work. Thinking of Iona, the small island from which

he had come, he obtained from Oswald the small island of *Lindisfarne*, which is now called *Holy Island*. This island is just off the coast of Northumbria, and at low tide one can walk across the smooth level sands that separate it from the mainland.

On *Holy Island*, the wise and good Saint Aidan soon gathered around him monks and followers, and in a short time a church and a monastery were built. Huts were built for the monks, and Saint Aidan was able to instruct them in their missionary work.

HOW CHRISTIANITY CAME TO NORTHUMBRIA 61

From the small island of Lindisfarne, many monks were sent not only to Northumbria, but to other parts of eastern Britain. They taught the word of God to the heathen English and obtained so many converts, that, after a time, most of the people of eastern England had heard of the teachings of Jesus Christ, and were trying to live as Christians.

1. Draw or trace a map of Britain. On it colour or shade Northumbria, Kent, the Island of Iona and Holy Island.

2. Write two sentences about each of the following :—King Edwin, Queen Ethelburga, Paulinus, the Witan, Coifi, Aidan.

3. Make up a little play showing how King Ethelbert and the Witan decided to become Christians. Most of the words of the characters are in the story you have just read.

4. Why did Saint Aidan settle in Holy Island ? What was his great work ?

KING ALFRED, THE GREAT AND WISE KING. 880 A.D.

JUST as the Angles, Saxons and Jutes had first raided Britain and later settled there, to become the English people, so the *Danes* tried to do the same thing to England.

The Danes were fierce *Vikings* from Denmark. They came to England in their long *dragon* ships, raiding the villages, robbing and killing the people, and leaving burning villages behind them.

At first the English were not strong enough to resist them. So the Danes began to settle along the eastern coast lands, turning out or killing the English just as the ancestors of the English had turned out or killed the Britons.

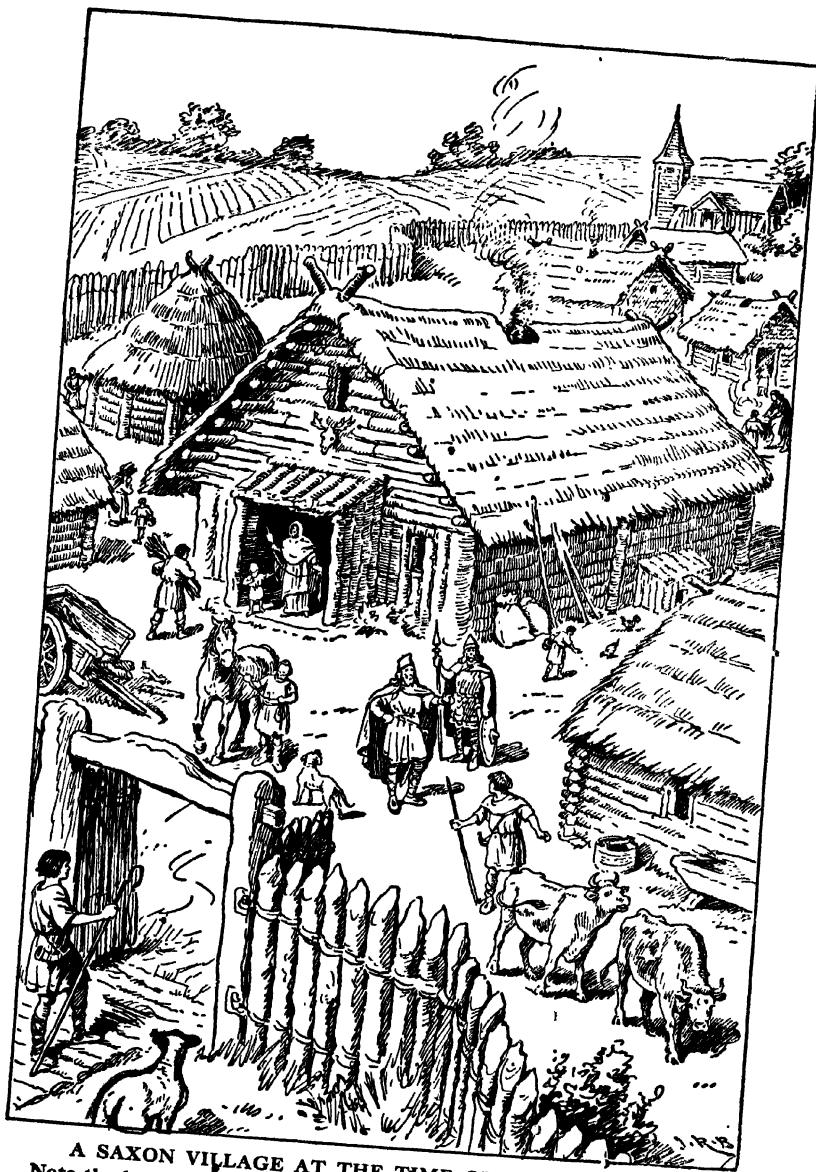


A VIKING.

There was continual warfare between the English and the invading Danes. At one time the Danes were victorious; at another time the English.

That was the kind of thing that was happening in England when Alfred became king of Wessex. *King Alfred* made up his mind to be a good, wise and useful king, and to turn out the Danes, so that England should belong to the English alone, and the people be able to live and work in peace.

Unfortunately, the Danes at this time were very strong. They continually defeated Alfred's armies,



A SAXON VILLAGE AT THE TIME OF KING ALFRED.

Note the houses and how they were made, the hole in the roof, the strong fence around the village, and the tiny church. Say what each of the persons in the picture is doing.

and over-ran more and more of England, until at last, Alfred had to flee to the marshes, the moors and woods of West Somerset, for safety. There he went into hiding, not daring to let anyone know that he was the 'king.'

Many stories are told of his adventures at this time. Perhaps you may not have heard the story of *King Alfred and the Cakes*. That story tells how Alfred, after a hard day's walking and hiding from his enemies, called at a peasant's cottage for a meal.

The woman of the cottage thought he was a tramp, but he looked so weary that she allowed him to sit in her kitchen, in front of the fire.

"Watch my cakes cooking!" she said, "And see that they do not burn!"

Poor King Alfred was so busy with thoughts of his own troubles, and in making schemes for the defeat of the Danes, that he forgot all about the cakes. Soon they were burning, and the kitchen was full of smoke. But Alfred's thoughts were far away; he noticed nothing.

Smelling the burning, the peasant woman rushed into her kitchen, and saw her lovely cakes ruined.

She called the king all the names she could think of, and even threatened to box his ears, for being a lazy tramp. She was just going to turn him out without a meal, when her husband came in.

He recognised the king at once, for he was one of

the few men who knew the secret doings of the king. You can imagine how surprised his wife was, and how ashamed that she had treated her beloved king and hero in that way.



WHAT STORY DOES THIS PICTURE TELL ?

Note the inside of the Saxon cottage, the floor, the fireplace, the furniture, and the clothes of the man. Who is he?

But King Alfred said he deserved all she had said for spoiling her nice cakes. Then they all sat down to a hearty meal by the warm fire, laughing and joking together.

Another story tells how Alfred went into the Danish camp disguised as a minstrel. That was a very

brave thing to do, for if he had been recognised that would have been the end of King Alfred. While in the camp, he found out some of his enemy's secrets, which helped him later against the Danes.



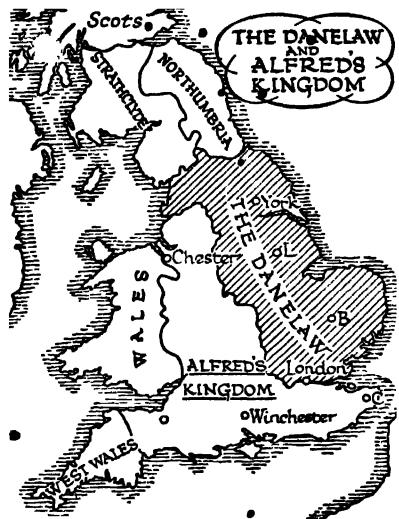
KING ALFRED DISGUISED AS A MINSTREL IN THE CAMP
OF THE DANES.

Note the armour and weapons of the Danes, and especially the helmets.

At last, Alfred had made all his plans. He gathered together at *Athelney* as large an army as he could, and defeated the Danes at the Battle of *Ethandune*, so that they had to make peace with him. This was in the year 879 A.D.

The king of the Danes, named *Guthrum*, promised that he would become a Christian, and he and thirty of his nobles were baptised. King Alfred and King

Guthrum agreed to share England between them, the Danes having most of the eastern half. This eastern half was called the *Danelaw*, and was ruled by Danish kings for many years.



Note: 1. THE LAND OF THE DANES.
2. THE LANDS OF THE
WELSH.
3. ALFRED'S KINGDOM.

good laws, where the people would be Christians, and could live a good, happy and peaceful life.

He made fair laws, and punished the law-breakers.

He had many churches built, and two large monasteries—one at *Shaftesbury* and the other at *Athelney*.

King Alfred was also a great writer. There were very few books in those days, and none of them were in the English language. So Alfred himself translated

For some years after this there was peace in England. King Alfred then showed that he was as good a ruler as he was a fighter and leader.

He wanted England to be a country with

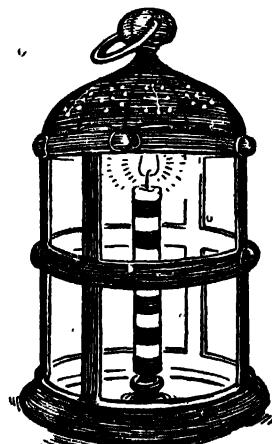
some of the books into English. To help him in this work, he invited learned and clever men from other countries, just as the great emperor *Charlemagne*, of whom you read in Book II, had done some years before.



KING ALFRED.

Denmark continued to raid and invade England with their dragon ships. Alfred then realised that the only way of dealing with the sea-invaders was to build more ships, and better ships than the Danes had, and to fight the Danes on the sea.

King Alfred had ships built that were stronger, larger and swifter than those of the Danes. The oldest book of English history was begun in Alfred's reign ; and this book says :



KING ALFRED'S CLOCK.

“ Alfred the king built longer ships than the Danes ; they were nearly twice as long. Some had sixty oars, some had more. They were swifter, steadier and higher than the others.”

Thus King Alfred was perhaps the first English king to realise that our island country must have a strong navy to defend it against invasion.

1. In your history note-book write the date 880 A.D. Opposite this date write the heading of this chapter.
2. Write a list of the most important things done by King Alfred. Say how his clock worked.
3. Make a drawing of a Viking ship. Then try to make a model of one, to show to your friends.
4. Write two sentences about—Athelney, Ethandune, Guthrum, the Danelaw.
5. A good story of the time of King Alfred is “ The King’s Sons ” by G. Manville Fern. You would enjoy reading it.

WILLIAM, THE NORMAN DUKE, CONQUERS ENGLAND IN 1066 A.D.

In the year 1066, England was ruled by King *Edward the Confessor*. He was a very weak king, but a very holy man. Just before he died he finished building the first abbey at *Westminster*, where all the kings of England have since been buried.

Edward the Confessor was very friendly with *William the Duke of Normandy*. He had lived in Normandy when he was a boy, and he liked Norman things and Norman ways. When he was made king of England he brought from Normandy many of his Norman friends. The English did not like this.

It is said that he even promised the Duke of Normandy that he should be the next king of England. In any case he had no right to do this, because the *Witan*, the meeting of wise men, chose the king.

On Edward's death in 1066, the Englishman who was chosen to be king by the *Witan* was *Harold*.

A story is told that Harold was once ship-wrecked on the coast of Normandy. He was taken to the castle of William, the Duke of Normandy, who gave him a great welcome. At the same time, William was very pleased to have Harold in his power.

One day he made Harold swear an oath in front of the court, that he would give up his own claim to the throne of England, and would help William to become king of England on Edward's death. The oath was made extra binding, by being made over the bones of saints, that William had had carefully covered by a cloth, so that Harold did not know until later.

On his death-bed King Edward the Confessor asked his wise men to choose Harold as their king.

As soon as Edward died, Harold was crowned king. Almost immediately, he had trouble with his brother *Tostig*, who had been king of *Northumbria*.



HAROLD BEING CROWNED KING OF ENGLAND.

Tostig and the king of Norway invaded England in the north, for Tostig was determined to be king himself.

With a large army, King Harold marched to the north, in order to put down this rebellion. He defeated Tostig's army at the battle of *Stamford Bridge* in Yorkshire, both Tostig and the king of Norway being killed in the battle.

Meanwhile, *William, Duke of Normandy*, was very angry when he heard that Harold had had himself crowned king of England. He swore that he would kill Harold and become king himself,

reminding everyone of the late king's promise, and of the oath that Harold had sworn over the bones of the saints.

William determined to invade England, and he began making his plans. He had many ships built, so that the coast of Normandy was very busy for weeks and months.



A NORMAN KNIGHT IN CHAIN ARMOUR.

At last a fleet was built, large enough to carry thousands of Norman troops, horses and weapons to England.

To get his army, William promised his lords that, if they helped him with men and weapons, money and service, he would share

England amongst them, according to their services. As a result, most of them were only too eager to help.

In a short time the fleet and army were ready, and William crossed the English Channel. He landed at *Pevensey* near Hastings, on September 29th, *in the year 1066 A.D.*—four days after Harold had fought the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Because Harold's army was in the north, William

was able to land his troops, their food, their horses and weapons without having to fight.

As William himself was scrambling up the beach with his men, he stumbled and fell, clutching at the soil with his hands. His men thought that this was a



THE NORMAN CAVALRY CHARGE THE ENGLISH SOLDIERS.

This is a drawing from the famous Bayeux tapestry.

bad omen, and wished to turn back. But William straightened himself to his full height, and raising his hands, full of earth, into the air, he cried :

“A good omen ! A good omen ! See ! I already have England in my hands !”

After building a fort at Pevensey, William and most of his army marched to *Hastings*, which they captured.

Meanwhile Harold had heard the news of the invasion by the Normans. In spite of the fact that his army had just fought a hard battle, he made all haste to go south with his army, to meet William.

Finally, on October 14th, 1066, the armies faced each other. All the horsemen were in link or net

mail, armed with spears and strong swords, and long pear-shaped shields ; the archers were armed more lightly. The Saxons had larger shields, and many of them had great axes, for the Saxons were larger and stronger men than the Normans.



THE DEATH OF KING HAROLD AT THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS.
This is a drawing from the famous Bayeux tapestry.

The English army took up a strong position on the hill of *Senlac*, for Harold knew that the Normans would find it very difficult to take this hill.

After much fighting, in which the English held their ground, William gave his archers the order to shoot their arrows into the air, so that they would fall on the heads of the English. This they did.

The English then found it difficult to protect their heads with their shields, and at the same time use their swords and axes on the enemy.

Harold and his men fought like lions to keep back the Normans; and the strongest and bravest was King Harold himself. He was *English*; and he swore never to give in to the Normans and their duke.

But alas ! In the middle of the fight, Harold looked up and received an arrow in the eye. He dropped his shield and his axe, and tried to pull out the arrow. But, he was mortally wounded, and he fell to the ground in agony. “Fight on!” he gasped, “Conceal my death! Holy Cross ! England to the rescue !” Norman horsemen rushed to the spot where he lay surrounded by his men. Soon the body of Harold was covered with heaps of slain.

With their king and leader killed, the English troops were soon defeated, and the victory was William’s—William, Duke of Normandy—who was soon to be known as *William the Conqueror*.

In this way William invaded England, and won the *Battle of Hastings*, in 1066.

In a short time London surrendered, and William had himself crowned king in Westminster Abbey.

From that day, for many years, England was ruled by a *Norman* king and by Norman noblemen. The Saxons hated their Norman rulers.

The Feudal System.—According to his promise, William gave large grants of land to the lords and knights who had helped him. When these

were given, each lord had to swear that he would be the king's *vassal*—the faithful servant of the king ; and it was made quite clear what the vassal should do if his lord required it.

For example, in time of war, each lord had to give his own services to the king, as well as providing so many men, horses, weapons and food.

In their turn, the great lords gave some of their lands to the knights under them. Each of these knights swore a similar oath to give service to *his* lord, in time of need.

This system, whereby everyone was attached to some lord, and all lords were attached to the king's service, was known as the *Feudal System*. It lasted for hundreds of years in Britain and on the continent of Europe.



WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

Doomsday Book.—William was a very powerful king, a very wise man, and a very careful ruler. In order that he should know the value of his many lands and what his lords owed him in services and goods, he had a survey made of the whole of England. He sent men to all parts of England to do this work. When they returned with their reports, the results of their work were written in a huge book, called *Doomsday Book*.

This wonderful book can be seen in the Public Record Office, in London to-day, although it was written nearly 900 years ago.

1. Write the date 1066 in your note-book. Opposite write the words "*England invaded by — — — of — —*." Put words in the place of the blanks.
2. Say in a few sentences two things that you know of each of the following :—King Harold, Edward the Confessor, Tostig, the Battle of Hastings, the Feudal System.
3. Make up a short play showing how William landed in England.
4. Make drawings or models of each of the following :—a Norman helmet, a Norman shield, a Norman ship.
5. You will enjoy reading "*Hereward the Wake*" by Charles Kingsley. Another interesting book is "*A Little Norman Maid*" by M. E. Gullik.



A NORMAN CASTLE.

Notice the costumes of the lord and lady of the castle ; also those
of the other people present.

BARONS AND CASTLES ; MONASTERIES
AND MONKS. 1130—1150 A.D.

AFTER the conquest of England by the Normans in 1066, there were very cruel and uncomfortable times for the people of England for many years. Remember that, at this time, there were in England the *Saxons* and their old enemies the *Danes*, both of whom had been conquered by William the Conqueror. Then there were the *Britons* who had been driven to Wales and Cornwall. To these races were added the *Normans*, who came over with William from France, and who were given lands that belonged to the English.

All the above peoples spoke different languages, had different customs, did not understand each other, and disliked each other.

Above all, the English hated their conquerors the Normans, who spoke French.

When William died, his son William “*Rufus*,” or the “*Red-head*,” became king. He was a harsher king than his father, and very cruel. He was killed in the “*New Forest*” by a stray arrow ; or at least that is what was said ; more likely he was murdered by one of the English who hated the Norman king.

At his death his brother became King *Henry I.* He was a wiser king than *Rufus*, and he wanted to

make the English friendly towards him. So he married an English princess. This pleased the English very much ; but it angered the proud Normans, who despised everything and everybody English.

When this good king died, his daughter *Matilda* should have been queen, but the barons did not want a woman to reign over them, so they refused to have Matilda as their queen, and chose *Stephen*, her cousin, instead.

Civil war broke out, for Matilda's friends rebelled because they wanted her to be queen.

All civil wars are terrible. During this civil war in Stephen's reign there was little justice in England for anyone. Only the strong got what they wanted—by force. The barons obeyed no laws they did not wish to obey.

During his reign, Stephen was such a weak king, that the barons did what they liked. They built strong castles, and obeyed no law. They fought against one another ; they robbed the poor, so that the life and property of no one was safe from them. They took what they wanted, if they were strong enough to do so.

The only safe and peaceful places in England at this time were the *monasteries*. They were also almost the only places where the poor people received justice.

More and more people looked to the abbots of the monasteries for knowledge, justice and wisdom. As



MONKS AT WORK IN THE GROUNDS OF THEIR MONASTERY.

a result the *Church* became more and more powerful, until at last many of the barons became afraid of the Church's powers.

MURDER IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL— THOMAS A BECKET AND HENRY II

1170 A.D.

ALL England was glad when the miserable king Stephen died, and Matilda's son *Henry* became King *Henry II.*

This young king had a very difficult task. But he grew into a strong, wise and energetic man.

He knew what a difficult task he had, but he was very sensible, and was determined to be a good and wise king, and one who would give justice to all men.

After some time, the people of England began to realise that the evil days of Stephen were ended for ever. They began to realise that they had a *real* king, a strong king and wise king, once again.

One of Henry's first moves was to limit the power of the barons, each of whom, feeling safe in his strong castle with his own small army, was acting as if he were the king himself.

Henry had more than a thousand of such castles destroyed, and took over most of the remaining ones himself. In this way the power of the barons became much weaker. Of course, they did not like this.

The greatest friend of Henry at this time was *Thomas Becket*, or *Thomas à Becket* as he is usually called.

Thomas à Becket was the son of a rich London merchant, who, in the reign of Henry I, went to the Holy Land as a Crusader. There Thomas' father was captured by the Saracens, and made the slave of a Mohammedan chief.

This chief had a beautiful daughter, who fell in love with the handsome Englishman. She helped him to escape, and later, she felt so miserable without

him, that she also escaped to England, knowing only that her lover's name was *Gilbert* and that he lived in *London*.

What joy there was between her and Gilbert when at last they met ! What stories she had to tell !



DRESS OF MEN AND WOMEN
AT THE TIME OF HENRY II.

Soon she gave up being a Mohammedan, was baptised as a Christian, and then married Gilbert Becket. Their son's name was *Thomas*, and he was born in London.

Thomas à Becket was a very happy and clever boy. Later he became the most important man in the whole of England, next to the king.

He had remarkably good looks, and very pleasant manners. His father had plenty of money, and got the best teachers for young Thomas, who learnt all things very easily.

As a young man he travelled to other countries, still learning all the time. He also had his pleasures, like other wealthy young men of his time. He rode fine horses, hunted, fenced, and joined in all the other sports of his friends.

When Henry II became king, Thomas became his greatest friend, and Henry came to love him as a brother. Henry knew how clever Thomas was, and he asked his advice on many things. Later, the king



THOMAS BECKET AS THE CHANCELLOR AND BOSOM FRIEND OF KING HENRY II.

They are going hunting. Which of the riders is the king?

made him the *Chancellor of England*, which was then almost the same as being the *Prime Minister* today.

Henry was very friendly with Becket, and he spent more time with him than with any one else. They hunted together, played together, feasted and joked together. Never did the English people see two such great friends.

The king showered honours, lands, and money on Thomas à Becket, until he became the richest man in the whole country. He had large castles full of the most costly things. His house was a palace, stocked with the choicest hangings and furniture. He gave many wonderful banquets, to which were invited barons; earls and knights, as well as their many servants.

We are told that "*his tables were spread with the choicest foods, his cups of silver and gold were filled with the choicest wines, the richest clothes were given to his pages and serving men.*"

Yet, it is interesting to learn that the floors of his wonderful palace, just like those of the king and queen's palace, "*were strewn with rushes or with hay and straw, like stables,*" for there were no carpets in those days, nor glass in the windows.

King Henry, with his Chancellor, Thomas à Becket, did much good for England. The power of the barons was made less; good and fair judges were appointed; and for twenty years the people of England had peace and good government. They lived under what Henry called the "*King's Justice.*"

We have seen that during the unsettled times of Stephen's reign, the monasteries of the Church had been a great blessing to the people of England. They had also become so powerful that they claimed to

have their own courts of justice. They claimed that Churchmen, such as the monks, the priests, and the clerks of the monasteries, should be tried, if they ever did wrong, only by the *Bishop's Court* of Justice, and not by the *King's Court* of Justice.

This annoyed King Henry II very much, not only because he felt the Church was taking some of the king's power, but also because many monks and priests who broke the law were not being punished properly by the Bishop's Court.

Thinking to put a stop to such unfair things, Henry made his great and wise friend, Thomas à Becket, the *Archbishop of Canterbury*, who is the head of the Church in England.

Unfortunately for Henry, Thomas à Becket seemed to become a changed man when he became Archbishop. He felt that, as he was now head of the Church, he must do everything he could to keep the power of the Church as strong as ever.

Henry soon found that he was going to receive little help from Becket. Then began a great quarrel between Henry II and Thomas à Becket: It was really a fight to decide which was going to be the stronger in England—the *Church* or the *King*.

Things went from bad to worse, for neither the king nor the archbishop would give way; each thought he was right. The whole of England was divided into two parties—the king's party, to which

the Norman barons and the bishops belonged, and Becket's party, to which only poor monks and ordinary English people belonged.

The king got the lords and bishops to pass laws saying that the Church should come under the *King's Justice*, but Becket refused to agree, and you must remember that he was the *head* of the Church in England.

Henry was very, very angry. He also was a very obstinate man, and he cried :

“ Either I will cease to be King, or this man will cease to be Archbishop.”

Some time later other quarrels arose between the king and Becket—still about Church affairs. At that time the king was in Normandy, which then belonged to the king of England. Certain bishops came to him from England, and in front of his nobles, lords and knights, complained about Becket.

Henry was most angry, and said, so that all could hear :

“ What an unhappy king I am ! I cannot be at rest in my own kingdom, because of one unruly priest. And not one of my friends will rid me of this trouble ! ”

At these words four knights left the hall, determined to please the king and to get rid of this troublesome priest once and for all. They took

ship for England the same night, and landed near Dover.

The next morning they gathered certain soldiers together and rode to *Canterbury*. They went to the abbot of the Abbey of Saint Augustine, and ordered him to take them to the Archbishop. When they were taken to Becket's chamber, one of the knights rudely said :

“ We have been sent from Normandy, by the king. He orders you immediately to go to his son, and swear on oath that you will obey him in everything, and agree that the Church must be under the King's law.”

Becket answered :

“ Why should I swear such an oath ? The Pope is head of the Church, not I. I refuse to do what the king wishes me to do.”

Angrily and noisily the knights went out of the room, and out of the Archbishop's palace, to get their armour and weapons. The monks were afraid for their master.

“ My lord,” said they, “ they arm themselves ! ”

“ What does it matter ? ” replied Becket. “ Let them arm themselves ! ”

The archbishop refused to move, until at last the monks brought him almost by force into the cathedral itself. Even then the Archbishop would not let them lock the doors.

Meanwhile the knights having entered the palace, and finding Becket not there, rushed into the cathedral with their swords drawn, crying :



THOMAS BECKET, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,
DEFIES THE KNIGHTS WHO THREATEN TO KILL HIM.

What happened ?

“ Where is the traitor ? Where is he ? ”

The archbishop, near the altar, walked up to them, saying :

“ Here I am ! No traitor, but the Archbishop ! ”

One of the knights with one hand grabbed Becket by the sleeve, and with his sword he knocked off Becket’s hat.

“ Come with us ! ” he shouted, “ thou art our prisoner ! ”

“ I will not come with you ! ” cried Becket. “ Do with me here what thou wilt.”

And he wrenched his sleeve out of the knight’s hand.

“ I am ready to die for my God, in defence of the justice and liberty of the Church.”

He then rushed at one of the knights and flung him almost to the ground. •

The first knight then lifted his sword and struck a heavy blow at Becket’s head, so that the blood ran down his face. Then the others rushed at Becket and stabbed him, leaving him dead on the church floor.

King Henry’s Penance.—When the news of this terrible murder was brought to Henry, he was very upset. He said he had never intended such a thing to happen.

He realised what a horrible crime had been committed and how he was partly to blame.

Returning to England he travelled to Canterbury, walking the last part of the journey with bare feet and bare head and dressed in a black gown. When he arrived at Canterbury Cathedral he showed how sorry he was for the hasty words that had caused the death of the Archbishop.

He placed himself in the hands of the priests there, and to show his repentance and humility to the

Church, he allowed them to whip his bare back while he knelt before them.

From that time Thomas à Becket became a saint, and his shrine became a holy place that was visited



KING HENRY II WALKS BAREFOOT TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL—AS A PENANCE FOR THE MURDER OF THOMAS BECKET.

every year by hundreds of pilgrims from all parts of the country.

When you are older you will be able to read the "Canterbury Tales," the story of one of those pilgrimages, written by Geoffrey Chaucer, one of England's first great poets.

1. Who was head of the Christian Church in Henry II's time?
2. State as clearly as you can the cause of the quarrel between Henry II and Thomas à Becket.
3. The murder of Becket was a double crime. Say why.

THE CRUSADES AND RICHARD THE LION-HEART: 1190 A.D.

ONE of the most striking kings in British history was king *Richard the First*. He was over six feet tall,

and looked every inch a king. No man was as strong as he, and his battle axe was so heavy that few men could swing it. He was as brave as he was strong, and that is why he was given the name of the "*Lion-heart.*"



RICHARD THE LION-HEARTED.

his life he was at war, either in Europe or in the Holy Land of Palestine.

The name of King Richard is usually connected

King Richard did not spend much of his life in England; most of

with the wars called the “*Crusades*”, a word which means the *Wars of the Cross*.

In Book II we read how the teaching of *Mohammed* spread like fire over Arabia, over North Africa, and even to Spain. The Mohammedans were great fighters and seemed to conquer wherever they went.

At the time of Richard I, the *Holy Land* of Palestine had been conquered by Mohammedan *Turks*. These Turks refused to allow Christian pilgrims to visit freely the sacred places, such as *Bethlehem* and *Jerusalem*, where Jesus Christ was born, lived, and was crucified ; and they treated the Christians who lived there very badly.

Peter the Hermit. Nearly a hundred years before Richard I became king of England, a monk named Peter the Hermit travelled all over Europe, preaching against the “*Infidels*,” as the Turks were called, and asking everyone to join an army that would go to Palestine to drive out the Turks.

Wherever Peter went, he rode on an ass, and held a cross in his hand. He visited kings and nobles and also preached to the peasants and workers. He fired everyone with his words.

Soon armies composed of all kinds of people, as well as soldiers, were marching across Europe, with the idea of getting to the Holy Land, and turning out the Mohammedan Turks.

To go on such a Crusade was a terrible under-

taking. People left their homes, had to march every inch of the way across Europe, and often had to find their food the best way they could. These ragged,



PETER THE HERMIT PREACHING A CRUSADE.
Notice how the people are dressed, and the Norman Castle
in the background.

straggling armies journeyed across Europe, often in great misery. It took many months to get even to *Venice* or to *Genoa*—after toiling over the high mountains of the Alps. From *Venice* or *Genoa* ships carried these *Crusaders* to the Holy Land. But, alas! Many of them never reached *Venice* or *Genoa*; they died on the way.

The Children's Crusade. At one time, many years before the time of King Richard I, there was even a Children's Crusade, and thousands of eager children began the weary march across Europe, feeling that they were doing something for Jesus.



• **A KNIGHT TEMPLAR
AT THE TIME OF
THE CRUSADES.**

What happened to those children—boys and girls—no one knows; they gradually disappeared! But we can imagine some of the pitiful sufferings they must have had, and how they often wished they had never left their parents and their homes.

King Richard I and the Crusades. Another great Crusade was started when Richard was king of England. He and the king of France and the emperor of Austria gathered together large armies, which eventually reached Palestine.

They captured *Acre* from the Turks, with great excitement and show of arms and weapons of all kinds.

The men on both sides were very brave and great fighters—one side fighting for Jesus with the *Cross* on their banners, while the other side was fighting for Mohammed with the *Crescent* on their banners.

Terrible fights occurred, often single fights, where champions on either side fought single-handed against each other.

The leader of the Mohammedan Turks at this time was *Saladin*. He was a most courageous and gentlemanly prince, always very courteous and chivalrous even to his enemies. He was also a very clever soldier and leader, and a brave knight.

He and King Richard made a splendid pair of men. Each of them knew that the other was a fine man. Once when Richard was unwell, Saladin sent him presents of fruit and other nice things for an invalid to eat, so that Richard soon became well again.

Actually, in many respects, Saladin and his nobles were more civilised in the way they lived, and in their conduct, than the European kings and their nobles. The Crusaders learnt all kinds of things from these people, which they would never have learnt if they had stayed in their own lands.

After Acre had been captured, King Richard quarrelled with King Philip of France, who left Palestine to return to France, leaving Richard to go on with the war by himself.

King Richard took his army along the coast, capturing towns and villages, but he had to give up the idea of taking *Jerusalem*.

It is said that he wept when he was within sight of the beautiful minarets of *Jerusalem*, for he knew that



**KING RICHARD CŒUR DE LION AND HIS CRUSADERS
ATTACK THE WALLS OF ACRE.**

Notice the catapult, the battering ram, and the scaling tower, the chain armour of the Crusaders, the battle-axe of Richard I, his shield, the cross on the flags, etc. Notice also the Saracen defenders on the walls, their flag and their weapons.

he could not stay to continue the war. His own country called him, for he had just heard that his treacherous brother *John* was trying to make himself king of England!.

King Richard made up his mind to travel home by way of Austria. He was a very sad man at this time, for none of his hopes had been fulfilled:

When he reached Austria, as he was not very friendly with *Leopold*, the emperor of that land, he disguised himself. And so, with one manservant, he continued his way across Austria, eager to get back to his own country before his brother had caused too much trouble.

But, an outstanding, soldier-like figure such as Richard's was not easy to disguise, and his servant gave him away by showing off the gold and jewels of his master.

Richard was recognised, and taken to *Leopold*, the emperor, who was pleased to have King Richard in his power. He put him in a secret prison, and said that he would not be released until the English had paid a heavy ransom for their king.

When Richard's brother John heard this, he promised the emperor that he would pay a still larger sum of money if the emperor would keep Richard in prison, and never let him out.

A story is told that *Blondel*, the king's servant, tried to find out where the king was imprisoned. He

went to various castles, and pretended to be a wandering minstrel. Outside every castle he sang the favourite songs of Richard. One day, to his



BLONDEL THE MINSTREL FINDS HIS KING.

What happened ?

delight, he heard from one of the castle rooms a voice singing the song he had just sung himself. He recognised King Richard's voice.

Hastening back to England, Blondel told Richard's friends where King Richard was imprisoned.

There was a great outcry by the people of England, when they heard how their beloved' king was being

treated. Also kings, princes and nobles all over Europe demanded that Richard should be released. The people of England freely gave money to pay for the heavy ransom.

The emperor Leopold sent one of his knights to England as quickly as possible, with a message to John. The message was :

“Look out ! The devil is loose !”

When Richard returned to England, he was treated as a great hero. Crowds cheered him wherever he went. The people were particularly pleased, because his brother John had not behaved very well, while he had been acting as king.

When King Richard died, his brother *John* became king. That was a sad day for England, for John was one of the worst kings that England ever had.

But one good thing came from John's reign. He was such a bad king, and did so many wrong things, that the barons joined together and forced him to agree to certain rules in governing the country.

Those rules were set down in a *Great Charter*, called “*Magna Charta*,” and King John signed it at *Runnymede*, near London, in the year 1215.

The signing of *Magna Charta* by the king was one of the most important acts that ever happened in England. It limited the power of the king, and was one of the first steps towards our present system of government, whereby every grown-up person has

THE CRUSADES AND RICHARD I. 101 certain rights, and has a say in the government of his country.

1. In your history note-book write the date 1190 A.D. Opposite it write the words *King Richard I goes to the Crusades*.
2. What were the "Crusades"?
3. Write two sentences about each of the following:—Peter the Hermit, the Children's Crusade, Saladin, Jerusalem, Blondel, Magna Charta.
4. Make drawings of a Crusader's helmet, shield and sword. Do not forget the cross on the shield.
5. Draw or trace a map of the Mediterranean Sea. Mark Genoa, Venice, Acre and Jerusalem.
6. "Ivanhoe," by Sir Walter Scott, is a wonderful story. Perhaps you can read it!

MARCO POLO AND HIS WONDERFUL TRAVELS. 1271—1291 A.D.

IN the Far East of the great continent of Asia is *China*, a country many times larger than Britain, and with ten times as many people.

You may perhaps be surprised to learn that the Chinese were a very highly civilised people hundreds of years before the Roman Empire existed, and when the people living in Britain were very uncivilised. *Confucius*, one of the great religious teachers of

China, lived 600 years before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Hundreds of years before Confucius, the Chinese knew how to make most marvellous things, and the kings and princes lived in most gorgeous palaces, with every luxury.

But very few Europeans had ever visited China, and thus very little was known about it.

But, we know now, that in Roman times the Chinese built the famous *Great Wall of China* right across their northern boundary. This wall runs for hundreds and hundreds of miles, and is one of the wonders of the world, even to-day.

The Chinese built this great wall—with a wide roadway on top of it—to keep out the swarms of fierce *Tartars*, who continually raided the borders of the rich country of China, and at that time were trying to conquer it.

At last, the fierce *Tartars* of Asia drove the Chinese from the Great Wall, and became masters of China and the Chinese.

Kublai Khan was the name of the greatest of these Tartar emperors of China. There is no doubt that his empire was the most wonderful in the world at that time—during the thirteenth century. He lived when Edward I was King of England.

It was a Venetian named *Marco Polo*, who first told the people of Europe of the wonders of China. He actually visited the court of the powerful emperor

Kublai Khan at Pekin, and lived in China for seventeen years.

Marco's father was a merchant, who travelled to many countries. Most of the European merchants who tried to get to China never returned. The journey was so long and so dangerous. But Marco's father and his uncle were actually in China when the young Marco was born in Italy. Their names were *Niccolo Polo*, who was Marco's father, and *Maffio Polo*, who was his uncle.

They had heard such wonderful tales of the riches of China, its gold, silver, jewels, silks and spices, that they had made up their minds to try the long journey, over seas, mountains, deserts, and great rivers. They knew they took the risk of being killed by wild animals or by wild men. After a year of many hardships and adventures, they arrived at the palace of the mighty *Kublai Khan*, who had the power of life and death over every one of his millions of people.

The *Great Khan*, as he was often called, received them very kindly, and asked them many questions about how the people of Europe lived.

After the Polos had been some years in China, the Great Khan gave them many valuable presents, and asked them to return to Europe, but to come back to him with one hundred wise men, who would be able to teach his people about the Christian religion.

So, after 15 years absence, *Niccolo* and *Maffio Polo* arrived one day back in Venice. The stories they told seemed so marvellous that many people refused to believe them ; but when they were shown the riches the Polos had brought back, they were very interested, and eager to hear their stories.

As soon as Niccolo returned to his home after so many years, he saw his son *Marco* for the first time. He was a fine, upstanding, handsome lad of 15 years. His father was very proud of him, and took him with him wherever he went in Venice. You can imagine how closely Marco listened to the story of his father's adventures, and how proud he was of his brave father.

After being at home for two years, Niccolo and Maffio wanted to return to the land of the Great Kublai Khan ; they also remembered that they had been asked to take 100 wise men with them.

When Marco heard them talking about returning to China, or *Cathay* as it was called in those days, he begged them to take him with them. He looked such a strong young fellow for his 17 years, and his father had found him such a good son and good companion, that at last Niccolo and Maffio agreed.

Young Marco went almost wild with delight. In the year 1271 A.D., all their preparations having been made, Marco, his father and uncle began the long journey to Cathay, thousands of miles away.

They could get only *two* friars from a monastery to go with them, and even those two became afraid of the hardships they would have to undergo, and they turned back very soon. So the three Polos continued their journey without them.



MARCO POLO BEGS HIS FATHER AND UNCLE TO TAKE HIM WITH THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY TO CHINA.

They went by ship from *Venice* to *Syria*. Then they travelled overland. When they met a caravan of camels loaded with trading goods of all kinds, they asked if the caravan were going to *Cathay*. If it was going in their direction, they travelled with that caravan as far as they could.

In that way they crossed high mountains, wide

rivers, raging torrents, and the great *Gobi Desert* that, for hundreds of miles, is nothing but sand. They suffered terrible hardships.



MARCO POLO WITH HIS FATHER AND UNCLE AT THE WONDERFUL PALACE OF KUBLAI KHAN.

It took them three and a half years to make the journey from Venice to the court of Kublai Khan, in far-off Cathay. But at last they arrived.

The great *Kublai Khan* was delighted to see them, and gave them a hearty welcome. He was particularly pleased with the looks of the young Marco, who was now a fully grown, strong, handsome young man, nearly 21 years old.

The emperor quickly saw that Marco was a clever and amiable young man. Marco became a favourite

of the Khan, and was soon given very important work. Most of this work was travelling to distant parts of the Khan's great empire, as the Khan's ambassador, attending to matters that could only be dealt with by a very clever and trustworthy man.

During these travels over China, Marco saw many wonderful things. The magnificence of the Khan's court astounded him ; he had never dreamt that kings and princes could live in such luxury. He visited many wonderful towns, all of which were very large, strongly built, and very beautiful.

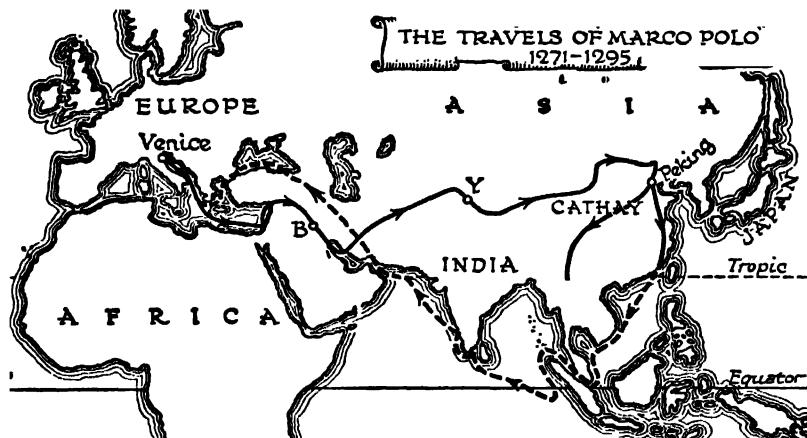
We know all these things, because, when he returned, Marco wrote a book about his travels called "*The Travels of Marco Polo.*"

Of one great city of Cathay which he describes in his book, he says, "*It is one hundred miles* in circumference, and has 12,000 stone bridges, and beneath most of these bridges large ships can pass."

His book is full of his adventures, and tells of his seeing curious beasts and peculiar plants ; and meeting people with strange customs. He describes also the marvellous luxury of the Khan's palaces, the beautiful clothes and jewels, and the wonderful banquets at which he was present.

Kublai Khan was so pleased with the work of Marco that he made him the governor of a province. We can imagine Marco Polo as a great Chinese lord,

living in a wonderful palace, dressed in most costly silks, with hundreds of slaves, to carry out his slightest wish, and becoming richer and richer every year.



HOW MARCO POLO TRAVELED FROM VENICE TO PEKIN ;
AND HOW HE RETURNED.

After they had been living in this land like princes for about 17 years, the Polos had a great longing to see *Venice* and their native land once again. They told the Great Khan of their wishes, but, for a long time, the Khan could not bear to let them leave him.

Then one day, they had the glad news that the Khan would let them return, if they would take with them, as far as Persia, a beautiful princess who was going to marry the Khan of Persia. Kublai Khan could think of no one he could trust to do this, except the Polos.

So, in 1292, they began their journey home, this time by sea, by way of India and Persia. They started with fourteen large Chinese ships, the beautiful young princess of seventeen with them ; and, of course, the Polos carried in the ships all the vast wealth that the Khan had given them during their seventeen years in his country.

It took them two years to get to Persia. When they reached that country they took the princess to the court of the Khan of Persia. The princess, who had grown to love them, cried bitterly when they departed for the long journey to Europe.

At last they reached Venice, in the year 1295—, twenty-one years after they had first set out for Cathay.

How excited they were on reaching home after all those years, and how strange Venice seemed to them ! Their old friends, and even their relatives could not recognise them, and they refused to believe that these three shabby men, dressed in *Tartar* clothes, were the Polos, who they thought had died years ago. And they certainly laughed to scorn the tales the Polos told of their wonderful years of adventure, and how they had come back very rich men.

But the Polos were patient and did not desert their old friends and relatives. Instead, they prepared a banquet and invited all of them.

The guests were astounded at the magnificent

banquet that was prepared for them ; but they still would not believe the tales the Polos had been telling.

A story is told of how they were at last convinced of the riches of the Polos. At the end of the feast,



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE POLOS RETURNED TO VENICE.

Why are they dressed so strangely ?

the Polos brought in their old shabby, 'travelling Tartar clothes. Like all Chinese clothes, they were thickly padded.' In front of their guests the Polos ripped up the seams, and pulled out the padding. To the great amazement of the onlookers a stream of dazzling, precious jewels poured out.

No longer did they doubt that these were the Polos

THE WONDERFUL TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO 111

—*Niccolo, Maffio* and *Marco*—and that they were really very wealthy men. They even began to believe some of the stories that the Polos told !

What wonderful stories they were—stories of the great Chinese Kublai Khan and his magnificent court, the fine towns, the beautiful palaces, fine pictures and statues, the soldiers, the great feasts for thousands of people, the wonderful clothes and jewels, elephants dressed in gold and silver cloth, and the great knowledge and wealth of the Chinese !

But all these tales and many others are written down in Marco's thrilling and wonderful book, called “*The Travels of Marco Polo*”—where you can read them for yourself.

After his death in 1324, at the age of seventy, many men read Marco Polo's book of travels and learnt that there was, in far away Asia, a civilisation just as wonderful as their own. Some of the men who heard of this went there, as Marco Polo had done, and those who came back said that his marvellous stories were quite true.

1. On the top line of a page in your history note-book write the title of this chapter. Then write the date 1271-1295 A.D.

2. Who was Marco Polo ? Where did he live ? What did he do ?

3. Ask your teacher to read one or two extracts from “*The Travels of Marco Polo*.”

4. Make up a short play of two scenes about the Polos' return to Venice. Scene 2 should be the scene of the banquet and what happened there.

PRINCE LLEWELLYN OF WALES.—A GREAT WELSH HERO. 1282 A.D.

WHILE Marco Polo was in China, at the court of the powerful Kublai Khan, Edward I became king of England.

King Edward I was a much better king than his father Henry III. He was a very strong king, and was very wise in most of his acts. Under his rule the people of England felt that they had a just king, and this made them feel safe and happy.

Now Edward I wanted to become king of the whole of the island of Britain, that is, he wanted to be king of *Wales* and king of *Scotland*, as well as king of *England*. But Scotland had its own king, and Wales was ruled by its own prince.

Edward decided to make war first against the Welsh prince, who refused to admit that Edward was his overlord.

As you know, Wales is the hilly and mountainous land to the west of England. It was the home of the descendants of the Britons who had been driven out of England by the Angles and Saxons, hundreds of years before.

These Welsh—the people of the mountains—had always been enemies of the English—the people of the plains. They often came down from their homes in the hills and raided the English farms, sometimes killing the owners, driving off their cattle and sheep, and taking other things of value.

The English living on these Borderlands were naturally very angry at this, and in revenge, raided the Welsh tribes, killing as many as they could. In this way—for hundreds of years—the lands between England and Wales had been a *Borderland* where people were not living at peace with one another.

Great castles were built by the English, in the valleys leading into the Welsh hills. These castles and the soldiers in them helped to protect the English farmers of the plains against the fierce raiders of the Welsh hills and mountains.

King Edward I determined to stop these raids once and for all, by making himself the ruler of Wales. He took a large army into Wales.

At that time, North Wales was ruled by a Welsh prince, named *Llewellyn*.

As Edward's army marched into Wales, by way of the main river valleys, Llewellyn retreated into the highest mountain regions of the north-west. As your map shows you, this is the region of *Snowdon*, the highest mountain in England and Wales. In

this region the only routes through the mountains are two or three wild, bare, and narrow *passes*.

Such passes could be held by a very few brave men. And Llewellyn felt that he and his men could easily stop Edward's army from going through them.

But Edward was a very clever soldier. He did not try to go through these passes, which he knew could easily hide hundreds of ambushed men. Instead, he blocked the ends of the passes with soldiers, so that none of the Welshmen could get out.

In that way Llewellyn and his men were starved into surrender, after suffering terrible hardships in the mountains.

Edward was not harsh with Llewellyn, and allowed him to remain a Welsh chief. But, of course, he was forced to recognise Edward as his king and overlord. Hence, for the time being, Edward was king of England *and Wales*.

Four years after this, David, the brother of Llewellyn, rebelled against Edward. Thinking that this was a good opportunity of becoming ruler of Wales again, Llewellyn gathered his men together, and joined the rebellion of his brother.



A WELSH CHIEF AT
TIME OF LLEWELLYN.

Edward I sent his army to crush the rebellion and to capture the two brothers. This time he was determined to execute them as traitors, when he caught them.

Llewellyn and his men again took to the mountains and the rocky passes, hoping that if Edward's army invaded the passes they would be defeated by the brave and hardy Welsh.

The English army built a bridge over the *Menai Straits*, but Llewellyn won a victory over this army, much to the delight of the Welsh.

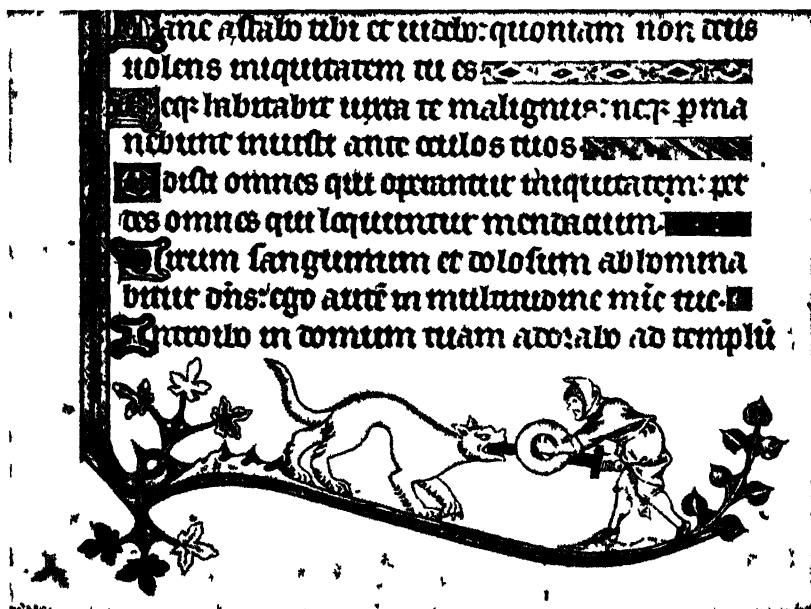
Now winter is a very bleak time in the Snowdon region. This region in winter is also a very difficult place for an army to get food. So Llewellyn hoped that Edward's army would be unable to stay there for the winter, and would be forced to go home.

But Edward was a very obstinate man. He made up his mind to capture Llewellyn at all costs. So he kept his army in its position during the terrible winter, in spite of the snow and ice, the biting winds and the lack of good food.

When spring came, and the warm sun had thawed the snows, Edward again began to attack Llewellyn.

Llewellyn felt that he was now in a dangerous position, with the strong English army against him, so he left the mountain region. Some days later, he and his soldiers met a few English soldiers on the

banks of the river Wye. There, in quite a small and unimportant fight, the brave Welsh hero was killed.



A HALF PAGE OF THE TENISON PSALTER.

This belonged to the son of Edward I in 1284. All such work was done by hand until the invention of printing 200 years later.

The Welsh had lost their beloved leader, and his brother David felt that it was useless to continue the struggle against the stronger army. David fled, hoping to keep out of the clutches of the English.

Six months later the English captured him, and Edward I had him executed as a traitor—as a warning, to show what would happen to anyone who rebelled against him.

Thus died the two brothers, one of whom at least will always be a great hero to the Welsh.

Since then—1282 A.D.—the king of England has been the *king of Wales* also ; but it was many years before the Welsh stopped hating the English. King Edward I promised the Welsh chiefs that one day he would give them a prince who would be born in Wales.

Some years later, his son was born in *Carnarvon Castle*, on the north-west coast of Wales. This fine castle still stands in its wonderful position. When this son of Edward was seventeen years old, Edward gave him the title of *Prince of Wales*. And since then the eldest son of the king of England has always been called the Prince of Wales.

1. Why were so many castles built along the borderlands of Wales ?
2. Draw or trace a map of Wales. Mark Snowdon, Anglesey, the Menai Bridge and Carnarvon.
3. Make a drawing of Carnarvon Castle.
4. Why did Edward I make war against Llewellyn and the Welsh ?

* * * * *

Have you collected many pictures and drawings in your PICTURE BOOK OF HISTORY ?

A GREAT SCOTTISH HERO.
WILLIAM WALLACE. 1298 A.D.

As we have seen in the last chapter, the great ambition of King Edward I was to be king of the *whole of the island of Britain*, namely, England, Wales, and Scotland. Hence, after he had defeated the Welsh, he turned his attention to Scotland.



KING EDWARD I.

Now at this time, the Scots had no king; and thirteen Scottish nobles each claimed to have the best right to be king of Scotland. They agreed to let the king of England judge who had the best claim. The choice really lay between only two of these nobles—*John Balliol* and *Robert Bruce*.

King Edward chose John Balliol, because he promised that he would accept 'Edward as his *king and overlord*.' Balliol was

crowned king by the Scottish nobles, and Edward was very pleased.

Unfortunately, Edward immediately tried to make many changes in Scotland. He forced English laws on the Scots and treated them so badly, that John Balliol and the Scottish nobles decided to rebel against having Edward as their overlord.

Edward had ordered Balliol to bring an army to fight the French. Balliol refused. When Edward, who was in London at the time, heard this, he was very angry, and he cried :

“ *I am his overlord!* If he will not come to us, then we will go to him ! ”

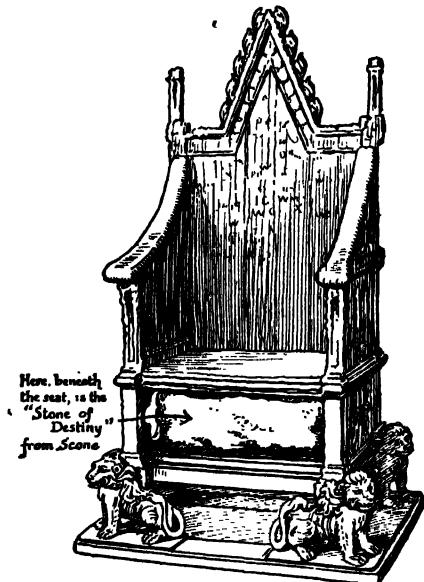
He immediately marched a large army into Scotland, captured *Berwick*, and it is said that he killed every man, woman and child in that town on the border. This was a terrible thing to do, and the Scots never forgave this cruelty.

The English army met Balliol and the Scottish army at *Dunbar*, and there was a great battle. Balliol was defeated and forced to surrender ; and Edward took the title of *king of Scotland*, making the nobles do homage to him as their overlord.

Edward and his army returned in triumph to London. He brought with him, not only Balliol as a prisoner, but the Scottish crown jewels, and the famous “ *Stone of Destiny* ” from *Scone*. This stone was the one on which all Scottish kings had been

crowned. There was a prophecy that, wherever this stone was, there would always be a Scottish king ruling. Perhaps that is why King Edward I of England wanted this famous stone in London.

Ever since that day, this stone has lain under the seat of the *Coronation Chair* in *Westminster Abbey*, and all British kings have since been crowned sitting over the old *Stone of Scone*.



THE CORONATION CHAIR.

forced to have an English king, and they waited only for the day when they could rebel.

In a short time the Scottish chiefs found a great leader. He was *Sir William Wallace*, a name which thrills and inspires every Scottish boy and girl.

William Wallace was not one of the great nobles. He was not very wealthy, and preferred to live a simple life in the country. He was a very tall, strong, handsome young Scot, who, as a boy, had

loved all out-door sports, such as stalking deer all day on the mountains, hunting, fishing, horse-riding, and competing with his friends in swordsmanship and other feats of arms.



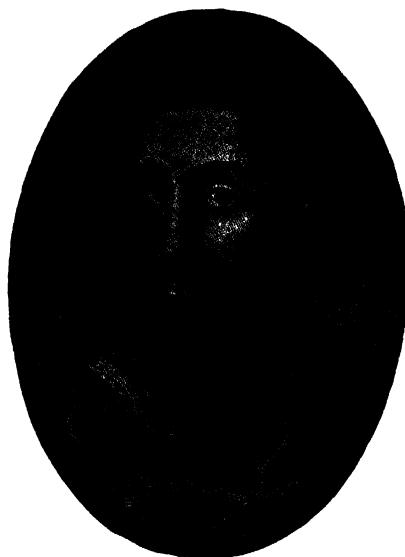
WILLIAM WALLACE ATTACKED BY ENGLISH SOLDIERS.

He was a perfect young knight in many ways, and he had many exciting adventures when the English rule began to oppress the Scots.

All his life he hated the English with a burning hatred. As a young man of twenty he had just married a beautiful, young Scottish lady. One day as he was riding home after a day in the hills, he was set on by some English soldiers, who did not like his

proud air, and who tried to take his sword from him.

The fiery young Wallace soon showed them that they had attacked the wrong man, and in the end he killed their leader. He rode home as hard as he could, the soldiers following him.



WILLIAM WALLACE.

His beautiful young wife was at home, and she helped him to get away. From that moment he was an outlaw, with a price upon his head. The English soldiers burst into his house, dragged out his young wife, murdered her in cold blood, and

then set fire to the house. No wonder Wallace hated the English until the day he died !

Sir William Wallace fired everyone with enthusiasm, and soon everyone was talking about handsome young Wallace, who was gathering an army against the English. There was great excitement in every home, as arms were gathered and plans discussed. And more and more menfolk secretly left their homes for the moors and forests, where Wallace was gathering his army.

At last his army was ready.. He marched to *Stirling*, where he met the English, and won a great victory over them.

Fired with this success, Sir William Wallace determined to invade England, and give the English a taste of what the Scots had had to put up with. He raided the northern counties, destroying farms, killing, burning, and taking anything of value—as such armies have always done. Many fat English cattle and sheep were driven across the border, and many a Scottish home showed English trophies.

While all these things were happening, Edward I was in Flanders. As soon as he heard of the rebellion he hastily returned to England. Soon, his army, under his excellent leadership, was marching north—along the Great North Road—into Scotland.

Wallace's army was waiting for Edward at *Falkirk*. His army was much smaller than Edward's, and his men were not so well armed. But Wallace had inspired his men with the determination “to win or die.” Alas, for Wallace! most of them died.

The Scottish army, armed with pikes, was no match for the well-armed and well-trained English army under Edward. This was mainly because Edward's men were armed with a new weapon—the English *long-bow*. This was a bow six feet long, using an arrow three feet long.

Armed with these weapons, as well as with the usual swords, axes, and armour, the English met the Scots at *Falkirk*. Although the Scottish army fought with great bravery, it was defeated, and Sir William Wallace had to flee for his life.

Meanwhile, Edward had offered a huge reward for the body of Wallace—dead or alive: Wallace was forced more and more to hide himself in the forests and moors, and he could never stay long in one place, for fear of capture or betrayal.

It is said that, after many months of this life, Wallace was betrayed into the hands of the English. He was taken to London, and put in prison. He was tried for treason; and the English court said he was guilty of being a traitor—they said he had rebelled against his king.

For this, the penalty was death and a very terrible death. The brave Scottish patriot, at the age of thirty-five, was executed, and his head was placed on a pole on London Bridge.

But Wallace's name will live for ever as a great hero in the hearts of all British boys and girls—and particularly in the hearts of Scottish boys and girls.

Because of the way Edward I of England attacked the Scots, he was given the name of "*The Hammer of the Scots*," and you can see that name inscribed on his tomb in Westminster Abbey to-day.

SCOTTISH HEROES—ROBERT THE BRUCE 125

1. In your note-book write the date 1298. Opposite this write the words *William Wallace a great Scottish hero.*
2. Now read the chapter again and, as you read, write a few notes on the life of William Wallace.
3. Write two sentences on each of the following :—
John Balliol, the “Stone of Destiny,” Falkirk, the “Hammer of the Scots.”
4. “*Gilbert the Page,*” by E. Kyle, is a fine story about William Wallace.

ROBERT THE BRUCE. 1314 A.D. ANOTHER GREAT SCOTTISH HERO.

At the death of the brave Sir William Wallace, the Scottish chiefs were determined to fight and die rather than have an English king. They chose as their leader the *grandson* of the Robert Bruce, who, years ago, had been one of the claimants to the Scottish throne. Formerly, this young Bruce was in the service of King Edward, who gave him many rewards ; he owned large estates in Scotland and in England. But he hoped one day to make the Scots free again, and to become king himself.

Robert Bruce was crowned king of Scotland at *Scone*, near Perth, the ancient capital. He then got together an army to rebel against the hated rule of the English king.

When Edward I, then an old man, heard this he was very angry. He swore that he would subdue the Scots and punish the traitor Bruce.

At that time, the English held most of the strong castles in Scotland. There were many fights; but at first Bruce's army was not strong enough, and Bruce had to give way. In one of those fights the Scots were caught unawares, and Bruce had to fight dressed only in his shirt; he only just managed to escape capture.



A SCOTTISH CHIEFTAIN
AT THE TIME OF BRUCE.

price on his head. At one time he was hunted through a wood by soldiers with bloodhounds, but managed to escape by taking to the stream which ran through the wood. This baffled the bloodhounds, and the soldiers had to give up the chase.

The stories of Robert's adventures and escapes at this time would fill this book. A price was on his head, but he never gave up hope. He was full of energy; and as more men came under his leadership,

the fight continued. Many of his friends suffered cruel deaths at the hands of the English.

Meanwhile, the old and fierce king, Edward I of England, was very angry that Bruce should still defy him. He made up his mind to go into Scotland himself with his army, although he was so ill that he had to be carried in a litter.

He made his son Edward, Prince of Wales, promise that if he died before he had conquered Bruce, then his heart was to be sent to the Holy Land with 100 knights, and his bones should be carried at the head of the army until Bruce had been conquered.

King Edward I never reached Scotland alive. The journey was too much for such a sick, old man of 68 years, and he died just before he reached Scotland. Almost with his last breath he vowed vengeance on Bruce, and reminded his lords and his son Edward of the promise that had been made to him.

Edward II and Scotland.—The new English king, Edward II, was a lazy young man. Although he was strong and brave, he was weary of the hardships of war and wanted to enjoy the comfortable pleasures of being a young man and a young king. So he led his army back to London, and had his father's body buried in Westminster Abbey.

In London, he upset his lords and barons so much by his acts and his unruly ways, that many of them lost all love and loyalty for him.

Meanwhile, in Scotland, Robert the Bruce and his chieftains were glad that Edward I, the "Hammer of the Scots," was dead. Taking advantage of the

weakness of the young and foolish Edward II, they captured more and more castles and towns from the English garrisons in Scotland, and gradually gained more and more power.

Robert the Bruce even invaded England, and laid waste the northern counties.

In Scotland he captured *Perth*, and razed it to the ground. He

took *Edinburgh Castle* by storm, at dead of night, and later laid siege to *Stirling* and its strongly held *Castle*.

The Constable, or Governor, of *Stirling* and its castle, made an agreement with Bruce that, if no relief came before the summer, he would surrender the town.

This news alarmed Edward II very much. Remembering, perhaps, the brave name of his wonderful old father, he decided to take a large army



ROBERT BRUCE.



**AN ADVENTURE OF ROBERT THE BRUCE, THE SCOTTISH
HERO.**

Note the armour of the men and horses.

to Scotland and give Robert the Bruce and the Scots a lesson that they would never forget.

He and his army reached Stirling after many weeks' march, to find that Bruce's army was waiting for them, not far away, at the Burn of Bannock, or *Bannockburn* as it is now called.

Unlike Edward II, Bruce was a great hero to his army. His men loved him, and almost worshipped him for his courage and bravery.

On the day of battle the Scottish army approached the English army. Edward's army was 18,000 men against Bruce's army of 6,000 men. In the morning light, Edward's army looked magnificent.

“ Burnished armour blossomed in the sun, flaming banners and bright flags waved their bright colours ; shining helmets glinted in the morning light ; bright shields shimmered ; spear heads winked in the sun.

“ The helmets, armour and weapons burned like myriad flames above the endless host.”

The Scottish army was a sober-looking, plainly dressed army, and looked as if it had very little chance against the might of the English.

As Robert's army advanced towards the English, the English king was most surprised. He asked :

“ What ! will yon Scots fight ? ”

“ Yea, surely ! And fight to the death ! ” replied one of his knights.

The Scots pikemen continued to advance, until,

when quite near the English, they all knelt and said the Lord's Prayer.

“They kneel to ask mercy,” said King Edward.

“Yes! but not of you!” answered the knight, “Yon men will win or die.”

The Scottish pikemen then placed themselves in readiness to receive the English. They pressed the ends of their pikes into the ground, the points facing outwards, ready to meet the charging horsemen.

“The great horses of the English dashed upon the Scottish spears as upon a dense forest.” The clanging sound of “sword on helmet and spear against shield was mingled with the scream of wounded horses,” and the shouts and hard breathing of the fighters.

Then Robert the Bruce ordered his archers to shoot into the thick masses of the English.

The Scots fought like lions. They hated the English for what they had done to them and their families. Always their great leader urged them on.

At last, the English were forced to give way.

“They fail! They fail!” cried the Scots. “On them! On them!”

And the English army was forced to flee in great disorder, many of them throwing away their armour in order to run faster. They left the field to the Scots and their followers.

The plunder taken by the Scots was enormous—

countless arms, stores, wagons, horses and treasure, gold and silver, beautiful clothes, and the splendid armour of the dead and the living. And, of course,



THE SCOTS DEFEAT THE ENGLISH AT THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN, 1314.

Note the English knight and his horse in the ditch.

the 500 English lords and knights, who had been captured, had to pay, later, large ransoms before they were released.

By his skill as a leader, and by the bravery and devotion of the well-trained Scots, Robert the Bruce inflicted on the English one of the greatest defeats they have ever suffered—at the *Battle of Bannockburn*, in the year 1314.

This battle made Bruce king of Scotland, for he had taken Scotland from the English by force of arms.

For the next eight years, Bruce turned the tables on the English in many ways, by continually raiding and plundering northern England.

When, at last, the Pope recognised Robert Bruce as the *king of Scotland*, Edward II unwillingly agreed, and there was peace again in Scotland.

Soon after that “ the English earls, barons, archbishops, bishops, clergy, and the people of England ” decided that Edward was such a bad man, and such an unwise king, that they deposed him. His son Edward was crowned as King Edward III in his place.

Robert the Bruce had gained everything he had ever desired, namely, the *freedom of Scotland* from the English, and he himself was the *king of Scotland*—the king of a *free* country.

He was a great man, a clever leader and a brave soldier. His motto was :

“ It is not for Glory, it is not for Riches, neither is it for Honour, but it is for *Liberty* alone that we fight.”

He fought for this, and he won it, and Scotland became free.

How Scotland and England later became united without war is another story. . . .

1. In your note-book write the date 1314 A.D. Opposite this year write the words *The Battle of Bannockburn*. Under this write three sentences about *Robert the Bruce* and this battle.
2. Write out the motto of *Robert the Bruce*. Then learn it; it is a grand motto to live for.
3. Ask your teacher for the names of some of the story books about *Robert the Bruce*.

EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE. CRÉCY AND POITIERS. 1346—1356 A.D.

FROM the time when William the Conqueror of England was also the Duke of Normandy, the English kings claimed to be kings of large parts of France. For many years they were actually rulers of large parts of France.

As the years passed, the French began to look upon the English as their natural enemies, for they knew the English king wanted France for his own. They helped the Scots against the English from the time of the reign of Edward I, and there were bitter wars on French soil for many, many years.

This long series of wars between the French and the English is known as the "*Hundred Years War*."

One of the most romantic figures of this time

was the son of *King Edward III*; he was the Prince of Wales and is usually known as the *Black Prince*.

Edward III was delighted when his wife, *Queen Philippa*, presented him with a first son. To celebrate

this happy event, he held in London a great feast and tournament. Nobles, barons and knights were all invited to join in this tournament.

The humbler people who looked on, enjoyed the magnificent sights and the knightly contests as much as anyone, and there was much music, dancing and drinking. Everyone was as pleased as the king and queen themselves to know that England had a young prince, who, they hoped, would one day be their king. The baby prince was

christened Edward, after his father.

The young boy grew up under the loving care of his mother, the beautiful Queen Philippa, while his father saw that he was brought up and educated as a brave young knight should be.

When he was 13 years old, the boy prince received the title of *Prince of Wales*, with great ceremony. A

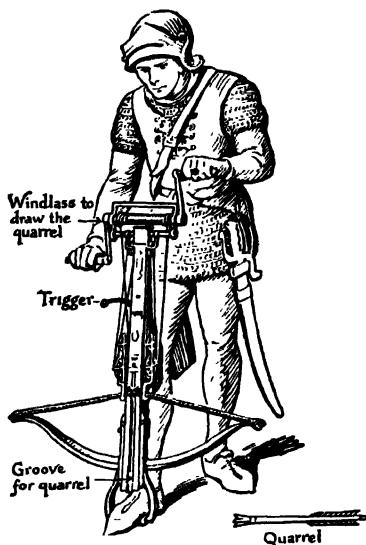


A LONGBOWMAN AT
THE TIME OF THE
BLACK PRINCE.

golden coronet was placed on his head, a ring on his finger, and a silver wand in his hand. Everyone gave a great cheer to the new, handsome, young Prince of Wales.

Four years later, when he was only seventeen, the young prince went to France with his father, knowing

that at last, after all his training, he was going to lead men to battle. He was very thrilled, and eager to start; and he hoped to conduct himself as a brave man, a true knight, and as a king's son, of whom his father would be proud.



A CROSSBOWMAN AT
THE TIME OF THE
BLACK PRINCE.

Young Edward was a handsome youth, very upright, with flashing eyes; and he was dressed in dark armour, which caused people to call him the "Black Prince."

He had his first great experience as a soldier at the battle of *Crécy* in 1346. His father divided his army into three parts, and placed the young prince in charge of one of them. The English army then waited for the French army, which was about eight times the size of the English army.

King Edward himself watched the battle from a windmill on a near-by hill.

The French knights on horseback, the archers and soldiers advanced against the army of the Black



THE BLACK PRINCE AND HIS ARCHERS AT THE BATTLE OF CRÉCY.

Note the armour of the men and horses, the weapons used and the flags. Who was watching from the windmill?

Prince in numbers much greater than those of the prince. A great fight began, and the young Black Prince proved himself a skilful and brave leader.

At one time it looked as if the prince would have difficulty in holding his own. One of his knights ran to the windmill where the king was watching the battle.

“ Sire,” the young knight cried, “ your son is sore pressed, and needs your help.”

“ Is my son dead, or wounded ? ” asked the king.

“ Nay, sire, but he is in need of help,” replied the knight.

“ Then return, and tell those who sent you not to send for me again as long as my son is alive. Let the boy *win his spurs* in this battle, and conduct himself like a good knight and a true prince, for I want all the honour and glory of this day to be his.”

Knowing that his father was relying on him, and that the honour of the English army was in his hands, the Black Prince and his knights fought so well, that, by the evening the battle of Crécy had been won against great odds. The enemy fled in great disorder, and the victors took much spoil.

When King Edward found his brave son, after the battle, he was overjoyed. He put his arms around him, kissed him, and said :

“ Oh my dear son ! God give you perseverance to go on as you have begun this day. You have done nobly, and are worthy to be a king. I am proud of you, my son.”

The prince bowed to the ground in front of his father, while the knights around cheered.

Later, he and all his knights gave thanks to God for their great victory.

After the battle of Crécy in 1346, Edward III

went on to besiege *Calais*. After a brave resistance, the people of Calais had to surrender, and Calais remained an English town for the next 200 years.



THE BLACK PRINCE GREETED HIS FATHER EDWARD III
AFTER THE BATTLE OF CRECY.

Note carefully the armour and weapons.

But the brave, young prince, who gave such promise as a young man, *did not live to become king of England.*

Many times he went to France to continue the war against the French. He was usually successful, and captured many cities and much plunder. The

French grew so afraid of him that French mothers used to hush their children by saying, "Be good, or the Black Prince will have you!"

One of his greatest victories was the battle of *Poitiers* in 1356, although his own army was again greatly outnumbered.

The French king was taken prisoner on the battlefield; but the Black Prince treated him with the greatest courtesy. He even waited on the French king at the great feast held that night in the English camp. The Black Prince was a true knight.

Later, he married the "*Fair Maid of Kent*," Lady Joan, and for some time he lived very happily at his splendid court, with his beautiful wife.

But wars called him away from his happy home, not only to France, but to *Spain*. In Spain he was ~~not~~ so successful, and from that time everything seemed to go wrong for him. He lost battles, his dear mother Queen Philippa died, and also his eldest son. He was a very sad man.

A few years after his return to England, he died. He was buried in *Canterbury Cathedral*, where you



THE BLACK PRINCE IN ARMOUR.

can still see his dark armour, shield, and gauntlets hanging over his tomb.

His son became, later, *King Richard II*, of whom we shall read in another chapter.

1. In your note-book write the dates 1346 and 1356. Opposite each write *The Black Prince won the Battle of —*. Fill in the blanks.

2. Imagine you are living in the time of the Black Prince and that your father was a knight. Say what you did and felt when you saw your father fight in a tournament. Describe how he was dressed.

3. Make drawings or trace pictures of helmets, armour, shields, swords, axes and bows and arrows used at this time.

4. You would enjoy reading “With the Black Prince,” by H. Strang and R. Stead.

THE BLACK DEATH SWEEPS THE WORLD.

1348 A.D.

WHILE Edward III was king of England, and whilst he was busy trying to become king of France, a very terrible thing happened in all parts of the world. A great disease or *plague* gradually spread, during twenty years, from China in 1333 to Europe in 1347, and then to England in the year 1348.

This awful plague, once it reached a place, spread like fire. People who caught this disease became ill in the morning and were dead the same night. There were no proper doctors in those days, and people knew little about disease and its treatment.

Whole families died in this way, and whole villages and towns became almost empty of living people. Only the dead bodies remained.

Actually 1½ *million people* in England alone—about one-third of all the people in the country—died of this plague, which was called the *Black Death*.

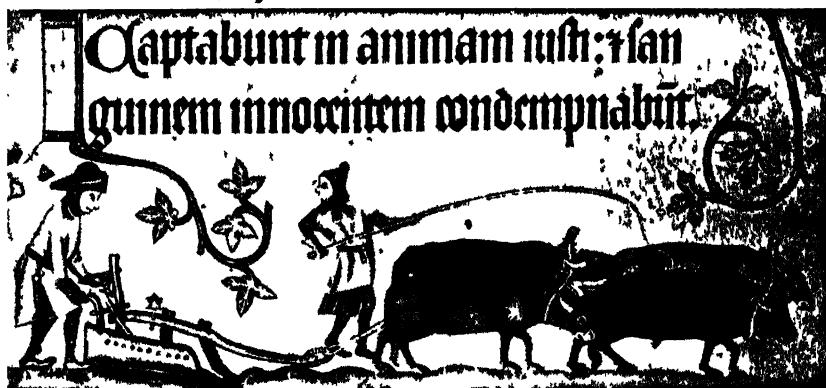
The Black Death caused much trouble and misery to the workers of England who remained alive. To understand the reasons for this, we must first know a little more about how ordinary people lived in those days.

There were no factories ; and most people lived by farming. From the time of William the Conqueror, the king, nobles and knights owned most of the land ; and their castles and villages, the houses in which the ordinary workers lived, and the food-growing lands all belonged to them.

The workers also “belonged” to the *Lord of the Manor*. In return for his protection, and the use of the land to grow food for themselves and their families, they had to work so many days on their *lord's land*, looking after *his* crops, *his* cattle, and *his* buildings.

THE BLACK DEATH SWEEPS THE WORLD 143

Later, as many of the lords had to go to the French wars with the king, they wanted *money* to buy arms and horses, and to pay their hired soldiers. To get some of this money, they allowed their peasants, called *villeins* and *serfs*, to pay them money instead of doing work for them.



PART OF A PAGE OF THE LUTTRELL PSALTER.
This was written and painted by monks in the 14th century.

This money payment, *in place of service*, was really *a rent* for the part of the lord's land that the peasant was allowed to use. In this way, many of the peasants became *free-men*. After this money had been paid, if the lord wanted men to work for him on his land, he had to pay them *wages*, just as is done to-day.

This kind of thing went on for many, many years, until, at the time of the Black Death, a great number of the peasants of England, who worked on a lord's land, were working for wages.

Then came the *Black Death*!

That terrible plague killed off so many people that the lords could not get enough peasants to work for them, unless they paid them very high wages.

The nobles, lords and land-owners were determined to put an end to those high wages, so they had a law passed, saying that all workers should work for the same wages that were paid *before* the *Black Death*. Also that no worker should be allowed to move from his native place.

By those means the land-owners tried to prevent the workers being *free-men*, and to force them to become again *villeins* and *serfs*.

In the next chapter, we shall see that the peasants felt they were being treated so harshly that they rebelled against what they called "*this slavery*", and a *Peasants' Revolution* occurred in England. This happened in the year 1381, when *Richard II*, son of the Black Prince, was king of England.

1. What was the total population in England at the time of the Black Death in 1348?
2. How many people died of this terrible plague?
3. How did most of the people of England earn their livings in those days?
4. Explain how some *villeins* and *serfs* became *free-men* before the Black Death.

JOHN BALL, JACK STRAW, AND WAT TYLER
LEAD A PEASANTS' REVOLT. 1381 A.D.

IN the last chapter we saw that the *Black Death* had caused great misery and trouble in England, not only by killing so many people, but because the peasants

began to lose their freedom, and were being forced by law to work for very low wages.

The poverty of the peasants was added to, at the beginning of Richard II's reign, by a law which said that every one in England must pay a *Poll Tax*, that is a tax placed *on every head*, rich and poor alike—on every man, woman and child.

This poll tax was unfair to the poor peasants, for each of them had to pay just the same amount as his rich lord.

All their bitter feelings were roused to fever pitch by a priest named *John Ball*. He was a very brave man, and travelled over the country telling the poor



KING RICHARD II.

peasants how badly they were being treated by the richer people. He was often put in prison for this, but when he was released he continued just the same.



JOHN BALL ADDRESSING A CROWD OF PEASANTS.
Notice the clothes of the men and women.

Wherever he went he used the following words, until the whole country was using them :

*“When Adam delved and Eve span
Who was then the gentleman ?”*

Other men talked in the same way, until the peasants were truly roused against their “lords and masters.” The feeling was particularly strong in

Kent, where two other leaders, *Wat Tyler* and *Jack Straw*, told the peasants to rebel, and do away with their injustices by taking the power into their own hands.

John Ball, Wat Tyler, and Jack Straw planned and plotted until, in the year 1381, everything was ready for their rebellion:

They said to their followers :

“ Let us all go to the king. He is young ; and when he sees how badly we are being treated he will put things right for us.”

Wat Tyler, *Jack Straw* and, *John Ball* gathered together a great crowd in *Kent*, and began marching towards London, where the king lived. They rested when they came to *Black-heath*, just outside London. There John Ball made a last stirring speech, telling them what to do when they got to London.

As they continued their march to London, adding more and more men to their thousands, their favourite chorus was :

“ *When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?* ”

Meanwhile, when the people in London heard of this great army approaching, they were very alarmed. The order was given that all the gates of London town were to be closed against the marchers.

But when the rebels reached London, their friends inside opened the gates, and shouting and yelling, the mob streamed into the city. There they went almost mad—breaking into houses, destroying, burning and killing. Any one who looked rich was killed, and his house plundered and destroyed.



THE DRESS OF MEN
AND WOMEN AT THE
TIME OF RICHARD II.

The rebels seized the *Tower of London*, and murdered the Archbishop. Such terrible things as these went on continually in London for three days and three nights—in that month of June in the year 1381.

Meanwhile, another army of rebels had marched to London from Essex. They reached *Mile End*, which was then a country village just outside London. There they demanded to see the king, for

they believed that the young king would treat them justly, and have things put right for them.

Now the nobles and lords were afraid that the king might be hurt, so they tried to persuade him not to go before the rebels. But, King Richard II was a brave young man, and he arranged to meet the rebels in a field at Mile End.



**KING RICHARD II MEETS WAT' TYLER AND THE REBELS
AT MILE END.**

What happened to Wa' Tyler? What happened to this Peasants' rebellion?

When he arrived, he asked the leaders what they wanted. When they told him, he promised them everything they asked for—especially their freedom ; and they went away contented.

At the time this was happening, Wat Tyler's army was causing much damage and trouble in London, as we have already seen. He and his rebels also wanted to see the king, and it was arranged that the king would meet them at *Smithfield* on the next day.

True to his word, the next day the brave young king—he was only sixteen—rode out with his worried lords to Smithfield. There he faced 20,000 men with Wat Tyler at their head.

When the king halted his horse, Wat Tyler, as the leader of the rebels, rode forward to meet him. King Richard asked him what this trouble was about, and said that he had already promised to give the rebels at Mile End the justice they asked for.

We are told that Wat Tyler was answering the king not very politely, when the Mayor of London, *Sir William Walworth*, cried out :

“ Thou knave ! How dare you speak thus in the king's presence ! ”

Wat Tyler was angry, and answered back sharply. At that, Sir William Walworth angrily drew his sword, and killed him on the spot.

The crowd had been watching everything. Seeing

their leader killed, they pressed forward, and bent back their bows, crying :

“ They have killed our leader ! They have killed our leader ! ”

They were pressing forward, and were just going to shoot their arrows at the king’s party, when the young king rode boldly forward to them, his back straight and his head in the air.

Pulling his horse up sharply as he reached the crowd, he cried :

“ What lack ye ? What lack ye ? I am your king ! I will be your leader ! Follow me ! But, what lack ye ? ”

Some answered and said :

“ We want you to make us *free*, for ever. We want to work for *wages*, and no longer to be serfs.”

The king then led them back to the open meadows. There he promised them what they wanted.

The people were very pleased with Richard’s bravery and his bearing, and they felt that he would truly right their wrongs. After some time, the crowd began moving away, talking about what had happened, and each man gradually went off to his own home, full of hope.

Thus ended the peasants’ rebellion in Kent, London and Essex, in the year 1381.

But the young king was not allowed to keep his promises and the rebels were cruelly punished.

It took almost a hundred years after Wat Tyler's death for all the peasants to become *free-men*, and when freedom did come, it all came very gradually, without another rebellion.

1. In your note-book write each of the dates 1348 and 1381 A.D. on a separate line.. Opposite the correct date write one of the titles of the last two chapters.
2. Write a sentence about each of the following :— John Ball, Jack Straw, Wat Tyler, Sir William Walworth, King Richard II.
3. Copy out the "chorus sung by the rebels. Then say it without reading the words.
4. "Red Dickon the Outlaw," by T. Bevan, is an exciting story about these times.

JOAN OF ARC—THE MAID OF FRANCE.

1430 A.D.

You have read in another chapter of the beginning of the *Hundred Years War*, in which the English king, Edward III, was at war with the French king, because Edward claimed to be the king of France.

Many years after the death of Edward III, the English king was Henry V. He was one of the greatest soldier kings England has ever had, and won a great victory over the French at the *Battle of Agincourt* in the year 1415. This victory was mainly

due to the skill of the English archers, who won in spite of the great odds against them.

The common people of France had a very bad time during these continual wars over their land. Their farms and property were destroyed or plundered by the armies, and they wished that kings would fight their wars elsewhere, or have no wars at all.

At this time, in a small French village called *Domremy*, lived a little French girl, whose name was *Joan of Arc*. When she grew up she became one of the most famous women who ever lived.

Joan of Arc was the daughter of a French peasant. From the time she was a little baby, her mother and father seemed to be always talking about the cruel wars that were making their lives so unhappy. She heard stories about the king of England, *Henry V*, who wanted to be king of France, and about his English soldiers who were such bold fighters.

Little Joan gradually grew into a lovely little girl, gentle, kind, and very helpful to her mother. She seemed a very quiet and thoughtful young girl.

She went to church often, and the priest and all the people of the village thought what a good girl she was.

When Joan was 13 years old, she seemed to grow more and more thoughtful, spent more time in church, and often went for walks by herself in the woods near her home in *Domremy*.

One day, when she was saying her prayers in the village church, she thought she heard a Voice from Heaven talking to her, and saying :

“ Joan ! Joan ! Only you can help your king.

Be a good girl, and God will show you what to do.” Poor Joan was very puzzled, and answered, dreamily :

“ How can *I* help the king ? I am only an ignorant maid. How can *I* lead soldiers to battle ? ”

But the Voice said :

“ You are a good girl, Joan. Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret will help you.”

From time to time Joan continued to hear these “ Voices ” talking to her, and at first it troubled her very much, for she did not know what to do.

However, Joan believed in her Voices, and became sure that God intended her to help France and its king, who had not yet been crowned by the French.

When she was 17 years old, Joan heard that the English were winning more and more battles, and that they were besieging the beautiful city of *Orleans*.



JOAN OF ARC.

Her Voices told her that she was to go to a French captain, who was in a village ten miles away. The Voices also said :

“ This captain will give you an escort of soldiers to take you to Charles the Dauphin. You will then take Charles to *Rheims Cathedral*, and have him crowned king there.”

So Joan went to see the captain. She was dressed in an old red woollen dress, and wooden shoes.

At first, the captain laughed when this young country girl told him about the Voices, and he sent her away, saying :

“ You ought to have your ears boxed ! ”

But, some weeks later, as the French soldiers were losing more and more battles, the captain decided to send Joan to the Dauphin with a letter.

Joan put on man’s clothes, and cut off her hair. Her uncle gave her a horse, and the captain gave her an old sword and a guard of four knights and two servants. This tall, dark maiden looked very fine when she started off on the journey—with her short hair, man’s clothes, her spurs and her sword.

The long journey of 350 miles took eleven days, but at last she found herself in the same town as her young prince, about whom she had often dreamed.

She went straight to the castle to see him. She was taken into a large, beautiful room crowded with knights and nobles ; yet, although the Dauphin was

dressed like any other nobleman, Joan *walked up to him at once*, although she had never seen him before.

Charles was very much struck by this country maiden, and by the things she told him.

But before he would do what she wanted, he had her questioned by many bishops and priests for some days, to prove that she was not a witch.

Joan became very impatient at all this questioning.

“Send me to Orleans,” she said, “and I will drive away the English.”

At last Charles agreed to all her plans. So on April 26th, 1420, Joan led a large army towards *Orleans*, which was being besieged by the English.

Dressed in a suit of white armour, Joan rode on a fine, white horse. On her white banner were lilies, the words “Jesus Mary,” and a picture representing God and His Angels.

The rough French soldiers almost worshipped her, and did everything they could to please her. They felt that she was being led by God to give them the victory against the English.

When Joan actually rode into Orleans, the people there looked on her as an angel from Heaven. There was great excitement in the town, and the English outside wondered what was happening.

Some days later, she led her army against the English, who occupied the forts just outside Orleans. The English were defeated and forced to march



**JOAN OF ARC LEADS THE FRENCH ARMY INTO OrléANS
AFTER DEFEATING THE ENGLISH.**

Study carefully the clothes of the ladies and children, and the armour of Joan and her soldiers.

away from Orleans. There was great rejoicing, and Joan was treated with great honour.

Then she rode to see the uncrowned king, Charles VII, determined to have him crowned king *at Rheims* as soon as possible. But it was not until a month later that Charles was crowned king of France, on the 17th of July, 1429, in the great and beautiful *Rheims Cathedral*.

This coronation was a wonderful affair, with the beautiful dresses, knightly figures, and the young king himself. The ceremony lasted from 9 o'clock in the morning until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. During the whole coronation, Joan the Maid stood near the king, with her battle standard in her hand.

After the king had been crowned, Joan felt that, most of her work had been done, and she wanted to go back to her old home in Domremy. But King Charles VII knew how his soldiers depended on the presence of the wonderful Joan, and he felt that the English could not be beaten unless she was with his army. He persuaded her to stay.

In 1430, as Joan the Maid was leading an army against the English she was taken prisoner. Her last battle had been fought.

The English were delighted to have in their hands the famous and mysterious *Maid of Orleans*, who had defeated them so often. They thought that she must

be a witch, and they made up their minds that she should never lead another army against them.

Charles VII, king of France, behaved very badly. He did not even try to ransom her, as was the custom in those days. He left her to her fate. And what a horrible fate was in store for this pure, brave, young Maid of Orleans, whose only desire had been to follow God's instructions to save her king and country from their enemies !

She was placed in chains in a dark dungeon, and was not even allowed to have a woman attendant.

She was brought to trial at *Rouen* ; and at that trial, which lasted three months, she was asked thousands of questions. Her judges tried to catch her by those questions, to prove that she was a witch.

Joan refused to say that her “ Voices ” and her deeds were of the devil. At the end of the trial, she said :

“ If I saw the fire lit, and the faggots burning ; and if I stood in the midst of the fire, I could say nothing more.”

But the judges had already made up their minds to find her guilty of all kinds of evil things, and to have her burnt as a witch.

So Joan, the Maid of Orleans, was condemned to death—to die by being burnt alive, tied to a stake.

Shortly after the trial, on the 3rd of May, 1430, she was taken in a cart to the *market place of Rouen*, where

everything was prepared to carry out the sentence of the court. In the centre of the market place was a huge pile of faggots, from the top of which stood a pole. The crowds watched in silence as Joan was



JOAN OF ARC BEING LED TO THE STAKE IN ROUEN SQUARE.

tied to this post ; when the faggots were set alight a groan went up from the crowd, and many eyes were wet with tears. Many felt that something wrong was being done.

As the flames rose higher and flared around this young martyr, poor Joan cried out in agony :

“ A cross ! Give me a cross for Jesus’ sake ! ”

An English soldier standing by quickly made a cross with an old stick and gave it to the dying girl.

Still holding the cross, her last word was “Jesus!”, in a sobbing whisper; and the flames then hid her from sight.

Most of the people in the great crowd felt the same as the Englishman standing with them, who said :

“We are lost! For it is a saint we have burnt this day!”

And a saint *had* been burnt that day—a saint of France. But it was not until nearly 500 years later that she was recognised as a saint by the Catholic Church—in the year 1920. She is now *Saint Joan*.

Saint Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, fought and died for the freedom of her country, France. The year after Joan’s death, Henry V, king of England, was crowned king of France in Paris. But, in spite of this, from the time of her death, the English gradually lost all their French possessions, so that by the year 1453—twenty-three years after Joan’s death—only *Calais* remained in the possession of England, and the Hundred Years War had ended.

1. In your history note-book write the heading *The Hundred Years War*. Under this heading write :—

1346 The Battle of _____. The _____. Prince.

1356 The Battle of _____. The Black _____. Prince.

1415 The Battle of —. King —' V.

1431 Joan of Arc.

2. Make up a short play about any event in this chapter. Make Joan of Arc the chief character.

3. How was it that Joan of Arc was such a help to the French? Why did the English kill her?

4. "Under King Henry's Banner," by P. F. Westerman, is a most exciting story of King Henry V.

AN INVENTION THAT CHANGED THE WORLD—WILLIAM CAXTON. 1476 A.D.

TO-DAY we are so used to *printed* books, magazines and newspapers that it is difficult to think of a time when books were very few and very valuable. That was when all books had to be *written by hand*.

The Englishman who was responsible for bringing the art of *printing* to England was *William Caxton*.

William Caxton was born in the Weald of Kent, a beautiful region. His father could afford to send him to school, and he was always very grateful to his parents for this. When William was a boy of sixteen he was apprenticed to a rich cloth merchant, from whom he learnt much about trade of all kinds.

Later, he set up in business for himself, and went to live in *Bruges*, in Flanders, where he stayed for thirty years. There he carried on his business so well that many important people asked his advice

on trade with other countries. At last he became the head of all the English merchants in that city.

As a hobby William Caxton was very fond of copying books, at which he became very skilful.



HOW BOOKS WERE MADE BEFORE PRINTING WAS INVENTED.

Monks copying old manuscripts. Notice the materials they used. The pictures on pages 116 and 143 show what kind of writing they did.

He also translated a number of books into English, so that English people could read such books for themselves. He did such beautiful copying, that the Duchess of Burgundy asked him to give all his time to making copies of all the books in her library.

This went on until Caxton was about fifty years old. So many people were then asking him for copies of his translations and other books that he knew it was impossible for him to do them. To one friend he said :

“ My pen is worn, my hand weary and no longer steady, and my eyes are dimmed with much looking on white paper. I can copy no more.”

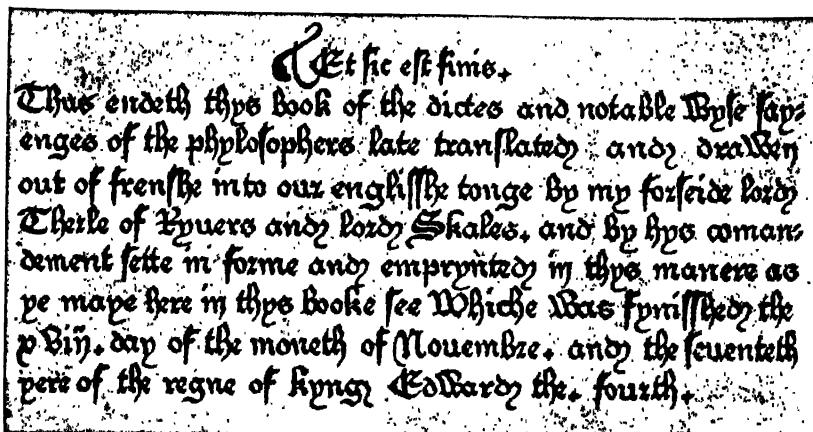
Some time before this, while in Germany, William Caxton had heard of an invention called *printing* which made books ever so much more quickly than the method of copying them by hand.

The Chinese had invented “ printing ” more than a thousand years before, but only recently had the idea come to Europe. The first idea was to *copy pictures* by making a wooden “ block,” on which the picture was carved. By inking this block, and pressing a sheet of paper on it, a copy of the picture was obtained. And as many copies as were wanted could be made very quickly.

Later, a block of a *page of printing* was carved out of wood, and copies taken in the same way. But this was a very clumsy and expensive method.

About the time when Caxton became interested in this new invention, a German named *Gutenberg*, who lived in *Mayence*, had invented a method whereby separate letters were made. He did this by cutting out a “ mould ” for each letter, and then pouring

molten lead into this mould. In that way he was able to obtain as many separate letters as he wanted. When he had finished with one page of print, he could break up the words and use all the separate letters over again for another page.



A PART OF THE LAST PAGE OF THE FIRST BOOK PRINTED IN ENGLAND (1477).

Read the above, which tells who was the King of England in that year.

William Caxton went to see these new printing machines, and he became so interested that, while he was living in *Cologne*, he had one made for himself. Then, with great joy, he *printed* his first book, in the year 1471.

What a clever man Caxton was ! He used to translate a book from French into English, and then print it in English, so that English people could read it. The first book he did in this way was called

“ The History of Troy,” some of the stories of which you read in Book I of “ The March of Time.”

In 1476, he came to *Westminster* in London, bringing with him his wonderful machine. There he was allowed to set up his printing-press in the Almonry at Westminster Abbey.

Outside his workshop Caxton hung a sign—a shield with a broad red bar painted down the middle—called the sign of the *Red Pale*. Under the shield there was a notice inviting those who wished to buy printed books to come inside and inspect his work.

For the next fifteen years Caxton was kept very busy and printed over sixty books. A great interest was taken in this new way of making books quickly and cheaply. Rich noblemen and ladies lent him their precious hand-written books to be printed ; and even the king of England, *Edward IV*, visited the sign of the Red Pale and saw Caxton and his men at work.

The world owes much more to men like *Gutenberg* and *Caxton* than it does to men like the Black Prince and many of the fighting knights of the Middle Ages. *Gutenberg* and *Caxton* showed how books could be made quickly and cheaply. Those who could read were able to read more books and so to learn more.

Even *Caxton* could never have dreamed that one day everyone would be able to read, and that



WILLIAM CAXTON WITH HIS PRINTING PRESS AT
WESTMINSTER

hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, and newspapers would be printed every year.

1. In your 'note-book write the date 1476. Opposite it write *William Caxton brings printing to England*.
2. How were books made before the invention of printing?
3. How did the invention of printing make great changes in the world?
4. "Page or Prentice," by H. Elrington, is a very interesting story of England in the time of Caxton.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DISCOVERS A NEW WORLD IN 1492 A.D.

You have read how Marco Polo visited the wonderful court of Kublai Khan in China, after travelling across the heart of Asia, and of the wonderful things that he wrote about in his "*Travels of Marco Polo*."

Many valuable things came to Europe from those far-off eastern lands—gold, silver, jewels, silks, and especially *spices* of all kinds.

Spices were very valuable in those days, and still are. People had not then learnt how to feed animals for food during the winter months; hence, in Autumn, many of the food animals, such as sheep

and cattle, were killed, cut up, salted and packed in barrels. This salted meat had to last the people throughout the winter, and, as you can imagine, it was not very tasty. Spices helped to make this meat and other foods eatable, and so there was a great demand for them.

Most of these spices came from *India* and the *East Indies*, the islands on the south-east of Asia. Ships brought them by sea to Egypt by way of the Red Sea, or they came by land to Constantinople. From either of those places they went by land or by sea to wherever they were required in Europe.

In those days, because of this trade, *Venice* and *Genoa*, on the Mediterranean Sea, were the two most important and the richest ports in Europe.

Unfortunately for this trade, in 1453 the Mohammedan Turks captured *Constantinople* from the Christians—and they have held it ever since.

The merchants and traders of Venice and Genoa were very upset about this, for the Turks stopped much of their previous trade with eastern lands. They wished there were other routes by which they could go to the Far East, but, said they, “How can there be?”

Christopher Columbus.—One of the most famous men of history is *Christopher Columbus*. He actually discovered a “*New World*”.

Christopher Columbus was born in *Genoa*, in the



COLUMBUS LANDING IN AMERICA IN 1492.
Whose flag is he holding?

year 1446. His father was a weaver with a shop near the harbour of Genoa.



When young, red-headed Christopher was quite small, he had to help his father in the weaver's shop, but, whenever he could, he loved to go to the harbour and play with his young friends. They ran in and out of the many sailing ships that were always there, and listened eagerly to the tales of the sailors. How Christopher loved to hear those tales of far-off lands ! He made up his mind that he was going to be a sailor and a traveller when he grew up.

His father wanted him to have a good education, so he sent him to the best school he knew—a famous school in the city of *Pavia*.

When he was fourteen years old he went on a voyage in the Mediterranean Sea, and from that time he made up his mind to learn everything possible about the sea, and how to sail ships.

As he grew older, he understood that learned men

said that the earth was round like a ball, and not flat. Christopher found this hard to believe at first, but, as he studied more and more about such things, he also came to believe that the earth was round.

Meanwhile his native city of *Genoa* was very upset at the loss of its trade. "If only another route could be found to China and the spice islands!" Everyone seemed to be saying this, but it all seemed impossible.

But *not to Christopher Columbus!* As he studied maps and got to know about the adventures of famous travellers and what they had seen, he came to the conclusion that if the earth were round, the far eastern lands, such as China, Japan and India, could be reached by sailing *west* as well as by travelling east.

"The great desire of Columbus was to take ships into the Atlantic Ocean, and sail west until he reached India."

But Columbus was a poor man, and getting ships, fitting them out, and feeding the crews cost a lot of money. Who would provide all the money required for such a venture? Columbus knew that only a king would do this, so he first went to the king of Portugal. But the king of Portugal would not provide him with ships and men.

No-one would believe him when he said that it would be possible to go to the Far East by going

west, across the Atlantic Ocean. Columbus became a very disappointed man ; his hair grew white before he was very old.

He decided to go to Spain. His wife had died, and he was penniless, so he and his young son, *Diego*, set out on foot. One evening he arrived at a monastery, near Seville, in Spain, hoping that the good monks would give him and his son some food and a night's lodging. It is said that the abbot of the monastery was very kind to Columbus, and gave him letters to friends at the court of the king and queen of Spain.

At last the day arrived when Columbus was asked to go to the court to meet King *Ferdinand* and Queen *Isabella*. He explained his ideas to them, and told them what glory and wealth Spain might obtain if his ideas were true.

Queen Isabella was very much struck by this noble-looking, white-haired man with rather a young face. She liked his healthy, tanned skin and his piercing blue eyes, his politeness and his eagerness. She believed in him. But, alas ! the king and queen had spent most of their money and treasure in driving out the Mohammedan Moors from Spain, and he must wait at least until the war was over.

Poor disappointed Columbus ! But he made many friends at court, and continued his studies. You can guess the things he studied most.

He became a well-known figure in the town, and

he was always so eager to talk about "sailing west to get to the east," that many people thought he was mad. Rude little boys would laugh at him in the streets and call him the "mad sailor-man."



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AT THE COURT OF KING FERDINAND AND QUEEN ISABELLA.

What do you think he is doing?

When Columbus was 46 years old, the wise Queen Isabella was so sure that he could do what he said he could, that she decided to find the money herself—by pawning her own jewels. This she did, and then told Columbus to get ships ready and to start as soon as possible on his voyage into the unknown seas.

How thrilled was Columbus ! At last his dreams were coming true !

Three ships were fitted out—the *Santa Maria*, the *Pinta*, and the *Nina*. Very few sailors wished to go



COLUMBUS READY TO SET SAIL FOR A NEW WORLD.

with him ; they thought they would never see their homes again. So convicts and law-breakers were pardoned if they went with Columbus.

On Friday, August 3rd, 1492, the three very small ships with total crews of only 88 men, sailed out from *Palos* harbour, into the open sea—on their voyage into the unknown ocean.

Most of the rough men on board felt they were going to their death—some expecting the ship to sail over the edge of the world, which they thought was flat. Their friends on shore sadly waved good-bye to them, and many a tear was shed.

Columbus had chosen good weather to start, and with an easterly wind behind them, before long they were out of sight of land and still sailing towards *the west*—into the heart of the unknown sea.

Thus the days and weeks went on, everyone growing more and more anxious each day, except Columbus. Once, the ships found themselves in a great sea of thick sea-weeds ; they thought they would never get out, but the wind still blew from the east, and at last they passed into clearer waters.

After nearly nine weeks at sea, there was still no land in sight. The sailors became very much afraid. “ Why should we all die because of a mad-man ? ” they asked themselves.

They begged Columbus to turn back. When he refused they threatened to mutiny and to throw him over-board. But Columbus was such a brave man and so fearless that he continued on his course, promising that if no land were seen in a few days he would turn the ships for home.

All these weeks the men on the look-out were straining their eyes for a sight of land. A rich reward was offered to the man who first sighted land.

But no-one, except Columbus, ever expected to see any land again.

Then, on October 10th, the spirits of the men were changed ; fear and gloominess changed to happiness and excitement. The crew had seen some floating branches with berries on them.



THE SANTA MARIA.

On the night of October the 11th, Columbus himself saw a light *moving in the distance*. He then knew that land must be there—in the west.

All the crew stood around the sides of the ships, waiting for sunrise. When it came, an excited voice cried, “ Land ! There it is ! ”

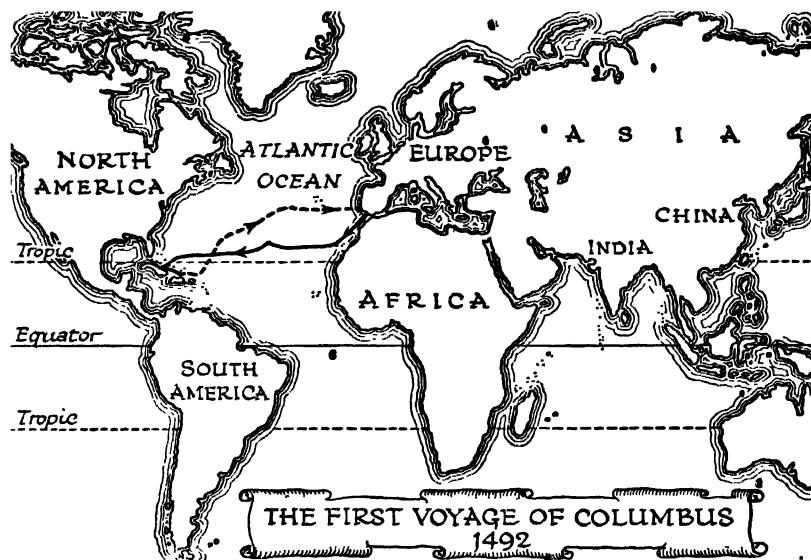
And the sailor pointed to the shadowy west. The cry was taken up by all aboard, for there, on the horizon, could be seen a faint line of coast.

“ Land must be near ! Land must be near ! ” they shouted. Then they picked up a piece of wood that had been cut with a knife.

Everyone watched most carefully day and night.

On the night of October the 11th, Col-

Although Columbus did not know it, he had discovered a New World.



HOW COLUMBUS DISCOVERED A NEW WORLD—AMERICA.

1. Copy the date **1492** into your note-book. Opposite it write the title of this chapter.
2. Make a list of spices that make food tasty.
3. Where do these spices come from?
4. What made Columbus think that he could get to India and the Far East by travelling west?
5. On a blank map of the world mark *Spain*, *Genoa*, *Venice*, *Constantinople*, *the East Indies* and the *West Indies*. Mark the routes taken by Columbus to and from the West Indies.

6. Make up a little play showing Columbus in the court of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

7. Make a drawing or a tracing of Columbus' ship the "Santa Maria."

TRYING TO FIND A SEA-WAY TO INDIA— BARTHOLOMEW DIAZ, 1487 A.D.

WE have seen that the main reason why Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean was to find a sea-way to *China*, *Japan* and *India*. And when he did cross that ocean he thought that the islands he discovered were really the *Indies*, the islands off the coast of India. They are still called the *West Indies* to-day, although they are thousands of miles from the real Indies, which we call the *East Indies*.

The lands discovered by Columbus were claimed in the name of the king of Spain, because Spain had supplied the money for the ships.

The Portuguese also had plans for finding another sea-way to India. Years before Columbus made his famous voyage, *Prince Henry of Portugal* was most interested in sending out ships of discovery.

He believed that if ships went south from Portugal, and if they followed the west coast of *Africa* far enough south, then they might find a water-way that led to the east—and so to India. All that seems simple to us to-day, because we can see the

exact shape and position of these countries marked on a map or atlas. But in the days of Prince Henry, most of these lands were unknown, and so there were no maps of them.

Prince Henry set up an observatory near Cape St. Vincent, and there he studied maps made by sea-captains, heard their tales of strange lands, and sent ships to sail *south* into the unknown seas.

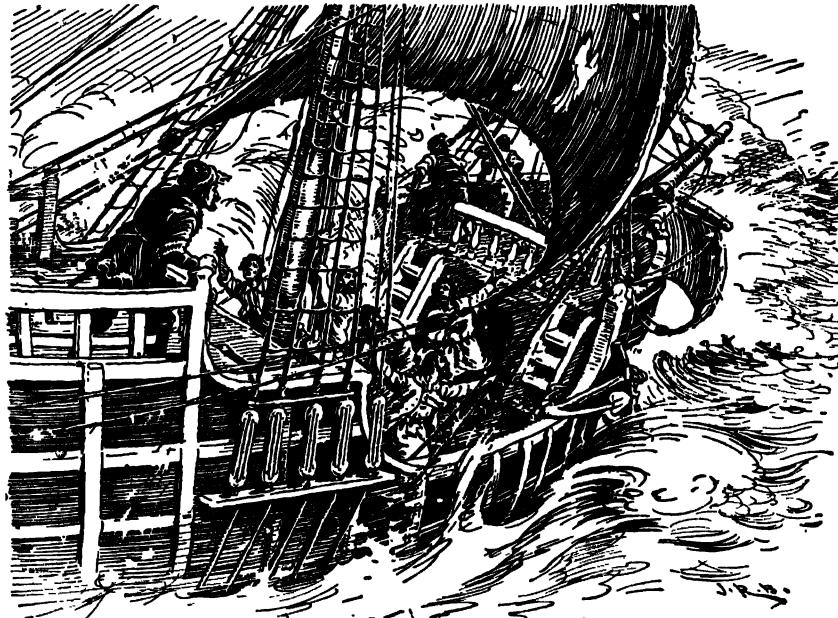
Such voyages were terrible experiences to the sailors in those days. Most of them went only because their captains forced them to go. They were very much afraid of the unknown seas, and of what they thought would be there.

But such things did not frighten the brave captains who trusted Prince Henry of Portugal, and who called him *Prince Henry the Navigator*.

After the death of Prince Henry the Navigator, fresh voyages were made, and ships gradually went farther and farther south, even past the Equator, ever seeing new regions and the strange sights of Africa.

In the year 1487, a Portuguese captain, named *Bartholomew Diaz*, decided to make a great effort. He intended to sail south farther than any one had been before, and to continue until he found the southern end of Africa—if there *was* a southern end! He thought that perhaps he might find the route that all men desired to find, namely, an eastern sea-route to the wealth of India—by going *south and east*.

He took two small ships, called caravels, and a store ship, but after many days at sea his crew grew very alarmed : "Where is the captain taking us ? When is he going to turn back ?" they asked.



BARTHOLOMEW DIAZ AND HIS CREW IN THE STORMY SEAS NEAR THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

But their captain, Bartholomew Diaz, went on. After travelling hundreds of miles south of the Equator, the ship came to a region where the land appeared to end, and where it looked as if it might be possible to sail *east* by a sea-route.

At this point terrible storms occurred, and Bartholomew Diaz and his crew almost gave themselves up for lost.

As the voyage had been such a long one, Bartholomew Diaz thought it was best to return to Portugal to give the news of what he had discovered. During the long return voyage he and his sailors had many adventures, and many men died or were ill, but at last the little ship arrived back safely.

You can imagine how pleased the sailors were to be at home, and what stories they had to tell, for they had been *farther south* than any one before.

Eagerly Bartholomew Diaz went to report to the King of Portugal. He told the king how they had reached the southern end of Africa, and that there was a great piece of land, jutting out, which he had called the "*Cape of Storms*."

"Oh no!" smiled the King of Portugal. "We must not give it such a bad name, or sailors will not wish to explore any further. Let us rather call it the '*Cape of Good Hope*.'"

And it has been called by that name ever since.

1. Copy the date 1487 A.D. into your note-book. Opposite it write the title of this chapter.
2. On a blank map of the world mark *Portugal*, the *Cape of Good Hope* and the route taken by *Bartholomew Diaz*. Shade or colour *India*.
3. What was Bartholomew Diaz trying to find?

VASCO DA GAMA FINDS A SEA-WAY

VASCO DA GAMA FINDS A SEA-WAY TO INDIA IN 1497 A.D.

TEN years after Bartholomew Diaz had reached the Cape of Good Hope, the king of Portugal fitted out another expedition to go along the same route, but

with the idea of finding out what lay beyond, and to make another attempt to find a *sea-way to India*. He placed the expedition in charge of a nobleman at his court, named *Vasco da Gama*.

Vasco da Gama was a great leader and an excellent seaman, very stern, but always very just. Four ships were carefully fitted out, the two largest having been built under the orders of Bartholomew Diaz,

VASCO DA GAMA.

who was a friend of Vasco da Gama.

On July 8th, 1497, Vasco da Gama and his crew of 170 men went aboard the four ships in the

harbour at *Lisbon*, while the king, his court, and a large crowd of onlookers lined the quay. Vasco took charge of the *St. Gabriel*, and his brother Paulo was made the captain of the *St. Raphael*.

When the anchors were lifted, and the ships began moving out of the harbour, the crowds standing on the quay waved to the sailors and cheered Vasco and his brave men.

“Good luck, Vasco da Gama!” they cried, “Good luck! May Our Lady help you to find the Indies!”

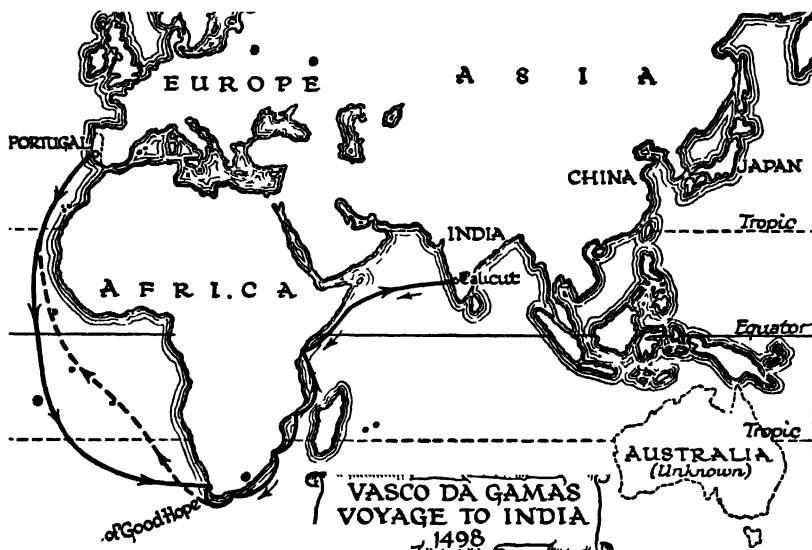
As the ships left the harbour the wind filled their white sails, on which was painted a red cross. They had started on a long, strange and dangerous journey, which no-one had ever made before.

After many weeks at sea, trying to keep as near the coast of Africa as they could with safety, and only occasionally landing to get fresh water, they reached the *Cape of Good Hope*, which Bartholomew Diaz had discovered ten years before.

Then began the most dangerous part of the voyage. Vasco da Gama tried to sail east—round the south of Africa—but strong currents and strong winds were against them. Terrible storms buffeted the ships, and the sailors thought that every moment would be their last. Some of the sailors grew so terrified that they plotted to kill Vasco da Gama, but the stern Vasco clapped the leaders in chains.

VASCO DA GAMA FINDS A SEA-WAY 185

Vasco was a very determined man; for days he fought the storms. Then the weather grew calmer, and they found that not only could they sail *east*, but *north* as well. They had rounded Africa !

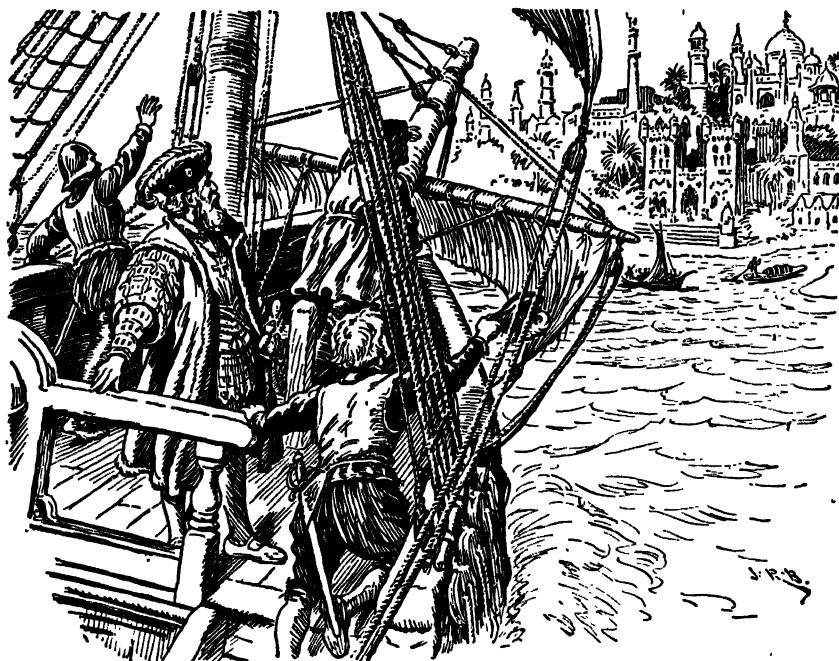


HOW LONG DID THIS VOYAGE TAKE? HOW LONG DOES
IT TAKE TODAY (a) by a liner : (b) by an aeroplane?

They continued north, hugging the eastern coast. Occasionally they landed, traded with the natives, and erected a pillar to show that they had landed there.

On Christmas Day Vasco da Gama gave the name of *Natal* to the country they were sailing past; the word *natal* means "birthday," and that province of South Africa still has that name.

As Vasco travelled northwards along the east coast of Africa, he stopped at certain villages, making friends with the natives and their chiefs. One day he arrived at a small port and recognised *Arab* ships



VASCO DA GAMA ARRIVES AT CALICUT.

in the harbour. He found that the owners of these ships were *Arab* traders, who were trading in *spices*—just the things he was trying to find—pepper, cloves, ginger, as well as gold, silver and jewels.

With a feeling of great delight, Vasco knew that at

last he must be near *India* and the *Spice Islands* of the Indies. He began to make many enquiries about getting to India.

After trouble with the Arab traders, one of the native chiefs became so friendly that he gave Vasco da Gama some Arab pilots to guide the Portuguese ships to *India*—the land of spices !

The ships again left land, the pilots guiding them due east across the *Indian Ocean*. Weeks passed before they sighted land again. Almost their first sight of India was the wealthy city of *Calicut*, on the west coast of India. From the sea this city looked very beautiful, with its shining minarets glittering in the blazing sun.

• Vasco da Gama and his officers were taken to the Indian king of Calicut, who listened to the story of their travels, and promised peace and friendship with them and their king.

But the Arab traders there were very jealous of these men who had come from Portugal, for they wanted to keep all the trade in spices to themselves. One day they even kidnapped Vasco da Gama, and the world would have seen no more of him, but for his brave brother, *Paulo*, who, when he heard that Vasco had been kidnapped, himself kidnapped six native nobles. He threatened to kill these nobles unless his brother was released.

On his release, Vasco da Gama left Calicut as

quickly as possible, determined to get his revenge on the traders some day.

After visiting other places on the west coast of India, he set sail on his return voyage, eager to get home to tell the wonderful news that he had found a *sea-way to India*—the land of spices and great wealth.

In crossing the Indian Ocean again they had very bad times ; many of his crew died, and he lost two of his four ships. Again he rounded the Cape of Good Hope, sailed north, along the west coast of Africa, and at last sighted his native land, *Portugal*, once again. It had taken his ships over a year to get back from India.

As his ships sailed up the river Tagus to *Lisbon*, people recognised them, so that when they arrived in Lisbon a great welcome was ready for them. The king was very very pleased with Vasco da Gama and showered honours and wealth on him.

Remember that *Columbus* had discovered America in 1492—by *going west*—five years before Vasco da Gama began his voyage. Columbus thought he had discovered India, and took possession in the name of the *king of Spain*. Vasco da Gama actually *found a sea-way to India* by *going east* ; and his work was done in the name of the *king of Portugal*.

1. On the map of the world you used in the previous chapter trace the voyage taken by Vasco da Gama.
2. Make a drawing or tracing of the kind of ship in which Vasco da Gama made his voyage to India.
3. For which country was Vasco da Gama working?

JOHN AND SEBASTIAN CABOT DISCOVER CANADA IN 1497 A.D.

IN the voyages we have read about so far, the great explorers, *Columbus*, *Bartholomew Diaz*, and *Vasco da Gama*, had been working for the king of Spain or for the king of Portugal. No mention has yet been made of Britain and of explorers working for Britain.

Yet the kings of England were just as eager as other kings to have explorers find new lands or new routes for them, because of the honour of having new lands, and because of the wealth that such new lands or new routes would bring them.

In 1497, a Genoese named *John Cabot*, who was a merchant of Bristol, went to the king of England, Henry VII. He asked for money and ships, and for permission to make a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to find *new lands for Britain*.

King Henry VII agreed to fit out a ship for John Cabot, on the understanding that the ship, and any future ships, should use Bristol as their port, and

that the king himself should have one fifth of the profits of the voyage.

Hence, on May 2nd, 1497, *John* and his son *Sebastian* went aboard the small ship *Matthew* lying at Bristol, with eighteen English sailors, ready to begin the long voyage due west across the Atlantic.

After a dreary voyage of seven weeks, they came to a region of thick fogs, where the sea was swarming with fish—*cod* fish. Shortly after this they saw land, and after finding a safe harbour they landed.

John Cabot took possession of this land in the name of the king of England, and called it *New-found-land*, which name it still has today.

From Newfoundland they sailed farther north and landed on the very bleak land now called *Labrador*. In that way a British expedition was the very first to land on the mainland of the continent that was afterwards called North America.

John and Sebastian Cabot wished to sail still farther north, perhaps hoping to find a north-west passage to India, but they were getting into colder seas where huge, icebergs floated, and where at that season, there was hardly any night time.

The eighteen sailors grew very afraid, and they threatened to mutiny if Cabot did not return at once. So John and his son turned back for Bristol. They arrived at Bristol at the end of July to report to the king of England what they had discovered.



JOHN CABOT LEAVES BRISTOL BEFORE CROSSING THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN.

As the battered *Matthew* approached the harbour of Bristol, three months after it had left, the people on shore grew more and more excited.

“It is the *Matthew*!” they cried. “It has come back after all!”

The news went quickly around, so that by the time

the *Matthew* was in harbour, there was a large and very excited crowd of cheering spectators. When John and Sebastian and the small crew landed, they had a wonderful reception.

A gentleman living in Bristol at this time wrote :

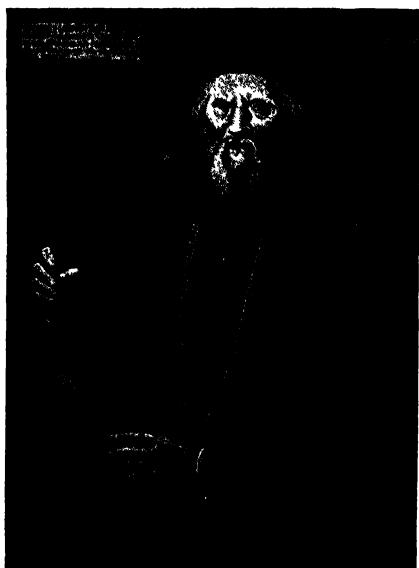
“Honours are heaped upon John Cabot. He is called *Grand Admiral*; he is dressed

in silk; and the English run after him like madmen.”

King Henry VII was very pleased, at first. But, when he heard of the kind of lands that Cabot had discovered, he was not so pleased. He grumbled :

“What is the use of a land with no gold, and where the seas have only fogs, icebergs, and fish!”

And he was rather mean to John, for he gave him



SEBASTIAN CABOT.

only £10 and a pension, for discovering the island of Newfoundland.

But many years, later, it was found that the *cod fish* that swarmed in the seas off Newfoundland brought more money to the ports of England than all the gold, silver and jewels that were brought from America to the ports of Spain.

1. Write the dates 1487, 1492, 1497, one below the other. Opposite each write the important event or events that happened in each of those years.
2. Write the names Britain, Spain and Portugal one below the other. Opposite the name of each country write the names of the explorers who made voyages for that country.
3. Explain the meaning of the last paragraph of this chapter.

THE FIRST VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD 1519—1522. FERDINAND MAGELLAN.

As the Portuguese had found the *eastern* sea-way to wealthy India and the Spice Islands, by way of the Cape of Good Hope, men of other countries tried to find *other* sea-ways to India.

By this time they knew that the land Columbus had discovered in 1492 was not India or the Indies. Yet they still thought there must be a sea-way to India by

going *west*. They determined to try to find a *western* sea-way—either by going round the south of America, or by going round the north of America.

The king of Spain was very jealous that a Portuguese, Vasco da Gama, had found the eastern sea-way

to India for the king of Portugal. His great ambition then was to find a *western* sea-way to India.

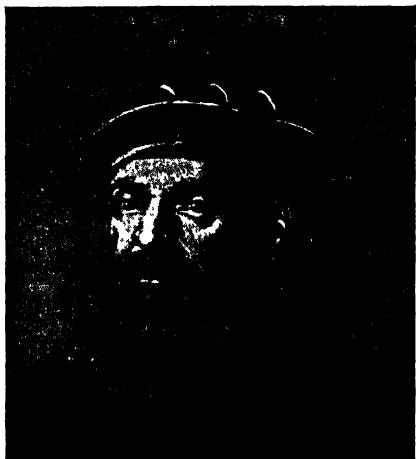
In 1516, a Portuguese nobleman, *Ferdinand Magellan*, who had been badly treated by the king of Portugal, went to the king of Spain and said he was willing

to try to find, for the king of Spain, a western sea-way to India; and he explained his plans very carefully to the king.

King Charles of Spain eagerly fitted out a small fleet for Magellan, offering him a big reward and the title of *Governor* of any new lands he should discover.

After long and careful preparations, five stout, well-armed ships, with crews of 270 men, set sail from *Seville* in Spain on August the 10th, 1519.

Ferdinand Magellan, the leader, sailed south-west across the Atlantic Ocean to *Brazil* in South America.



FERDINAND MAGELLAN.

He had made up his mind to follow the coast, sailing south all the way, to see if he could find a water-way that would lead *west*—into the great ocean that he knew lay on the other side of the Americas.

The ships stopped at various places in South America, to trade with the natives and to get fresh food and fresh water. They reached farther and farther south, until at last the weather became very stormy, and much colder.

As time went on, and the food became short, the sailors began grumbling, and they said that Magellan must be a madman to think that he could sail round the south of America. They begged him to return, and when he sternly refused, some of them mutinied with the idea of murdering Magellan and taking the ships back to Spain themselves.

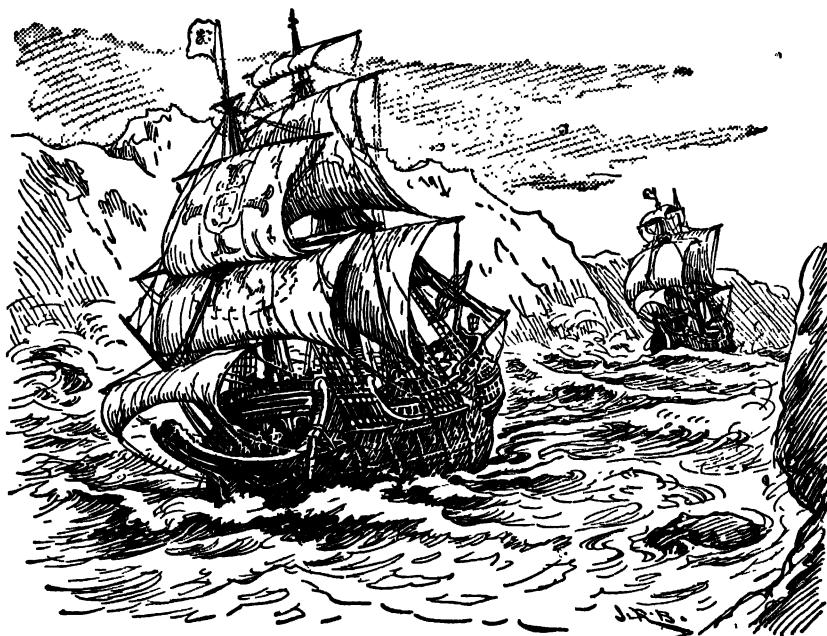
Magellan was a brave man and a stern commander ; and he quickly stopped the mutiny, by hanging the leaders and putting others of the mutineers ashore—leaving them to their fate. The ships sailed on, and there were no more mutinies.

At last, in the far south, a sea-way was seen to cut through to the west. It looked as if Magellan had really reached the extreme south of America.

This water-way is now called *Magellan's Strait*, after Magellan. As the ships entered its cold and stormy waters, the seamen became very much afraid.

"Where is Magellan leading us?" they asked.

On either side of the strait, tall mountains of snow-capped cliffs arose; shallows and islands seemed to



FERDINAND MAGELLAN GUIDES HIS SHIPS THROUGH THE STORMY MAGELLAN STRAITS.

block the sea-way; and all the time great storms, with their heavy winds and high waves, threatened to sink the ships at any moment.

It took five and a half weeks to struggle through this dangerous water-way, and only three ships out of the five managed to get through.

How pleased Magellan and his sailors were, when, one day, they saw that the strait was widening, and

THE FIRST VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD 197

that at last they were out of it, sailing in a calm, peaceful sea ! Magellan gave this sea the name *Pacific* Ocean, because it was so smooth and peaceful after the dangers of the straits.

Meanwhile, Magellan headed due north-west, every day expecting to see land—the land of *India* and the *Indies*. But the ships spent more than sixteen weeks in sailing across this great Pacific Ocean.

Weeks before they reached land, their water and food were almost all used up. The sailors suffered terribly from thirst and hunger and from the hot sun.

They grew so hungry that they were pleased to eat anything that could be eaten ; they even gnawed any pieces of leather that were on the ships, or they soaked the leather, dried it in the sun, then roasted it before eating it.

You can imagine their joy when, one day, they saw land in the distance ; they thought they were dreaming, after sixteen weeks with no sight of land. As they drew nearer, beautiful palm trees waved coolly in the breeze.

The first thing they did on landing was to find some fresh water, with which they filled themselves until they could drink no more. Natives gave them fruit and vegetables, and after a good meal they felt their troubles were over.

They rested on this island for some time, and then visited other islands off the coast of Asia.

The Death of Magellan.—The chief of one of these islands was so unfriendly, that Ferdinand Magellan landed sixty armed sailors, to show this chief that he and his men could not treat Portuguese sailors as they liked.

As they landed on the beach, a swarm of natives rushed at them, and there was a desperate struggle.

The natives were very fierce, and they killed almost everyone, including Ferdinand Magellan. One of those who escaped, in describing Magellan's death, wrote :

“ The Indians all rushed upon him, and one of them, with a great sword like a scimitar, gave him a heavy blow on the leg, and brought the captain down on his face. Then the Indians threw themselves upon him, and ran him through with lances and scimitars and all the other arms they had.”

After this tragedy, the remaining crews were eager to continue the long voyage that they hoped would take them back to Spain. Only two ships were left.

These two ships visited the *Molucca Islands* and loaded up with valuable spices to take back to Spain. The captain of the *Victoria* said he was going to continue west and go home by way of the Cape of Good Hope. The other captain refused to do this, and said he was going back the way they had come.

Hence the little *Victoria* set out alone across the thousands of miles of stormy seas that had yet to be travelled. Hardly enough crew were left to work the ship ; the ship became nearly a wreck, and many sailors died. Those left alive often felt that they would never see their homes again ; they had already been away for nearly three years !

However, at last their grit and bravery brought them back to Spain, and their battered and tattered ship, the *Victoria*, anchored for the last time in *Seville* harbour, on September 9th, 1522.

Of the 270 men who started out in the five ships under Magellan, three years before, only eighteen were left. Many, many tears were shed that night when the people of *Seville* understood how many of their brave husbands, fathers and brothers had died on that famous voyage.

The *Victoria* was the first ship to sail round the world. It had proved that the earth *was* round ; and there could now be no doubts about that.

The eighteen sailors were treated as great heroes, and for the rest of their lives they continually told yarns of the lands they had visited, and the peoples, animals and wonderful things they had seen. And they often spoke of the skill and bravery of their captain, *Ferdinand Magellan*, without whom those wonderful travels would not have been made.

1. On a blank map of the world trace the voyage round the world of Magellan's ship. Mark with a cross the place where Magellan was killed.
2. Make a list of all the great explorers mentioned so far in this book. Opposite each name write a date and say what happened in those years.

THE REFORMATION. RELIGIOUS TROUBLES IN ENGLAND. 1531—1558.

SINCE very early times the Pope of Rome was considered the head of all Christians throughout the world, including those in England. As a result, all the monks, abbots, priests and bishops of all countries obeyed the instructions of the Pope, who had authority also over many princes and kings.

It could be said that the Christian Church in those days, under the Pope of Rome, united the peoples of Europe in a way that has never occurred since.

About the time of King Henry VIII of England, many people in Europe wanted to *reform*, or improve, some of the practices of the Christian Church. They were led by a German monk named *Martin Luther*, who *protested* against certain things that he and others said were not good Christian things to do.

This movement to reform the Christian Church

was the beginning of what is now known as *The Reformation*. In this "reformation" many people broke away from the rules and practices of the Catholic Church under the Pope, and began to worship God in their own way.



KING HENRY VIII.

Such people were later called *Protestants*, and they refused to recognise the Pope as their leader. The Pope did everything he could to prevent this breaking away from the Catholic Church.

In England, King Henry VIII at first did not agree with what Luther said. Henry wrote a book against Luther, and the Pope gave him the title *Fidei*

Defensor which means "Defender of the Faith". Look at a penny and you will see that title still there.

Later, Henry quarrelled with the Pope, not for religious reasons but because the Pope would not allow him to be divorced from his wife. Henry VIII was a very self-willed king, and he was determined to have his own way. He refused to recognise the

Pope as the head of the Church of England, and he had *himself* made the head of the English Church.

In order to make his position more secure, he disbanded all the monasteries in England. During almost a thousand years of Christianity in England many monasteries had been built. Those monasteries had become very rich and possessed many valuable lands and properties. Henry took away all their lands and wealth, and cast out the monks and abbots. This caused great hardship to the thousands of monks all over England, who had been living the good life under monastic rule and had been doing many good works, such as helping the poor and the sick.

In such a manner did the Reformation *begin* in England. But, in Henry VIII's time no changes occurred in the practices of the Church in England ; and any "reformers" were punished severely.

When King Henry VIII died, his son Edward, aged ten, became King Edward VI. During Edward's short reign the English Church was "reformed." A law was passed saying that the Protestant Prayer Book was to be used in all churches, and England became a *Protestant* country. These things troubled the Roman Catholics in England very much, and many refused to obey such laws. They were punished severely, and very cruelly.

On the death of the young Edward VI when he was only eighteen, his step-sister *Mary Tudor*

became queen of England. This pleased the Roman Catholics, for Mary was an eager Roman Catholic.

Queen Mary was determined to force all people in England to be Roman Catholics again and to look upon the Pope again as their head. As a result, many great and noble men were made martyrs because of their refusal to do what Mary wanted. They were burnt alive at the stake, in public, as a warning to others. Bishops *Ridley*, *Latimer*, *Hooper* and *Cranmer* are the most famous of these martyrs.



MARY TUDOR, QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

One of the things that put many English people against Queen Mary was her marriage with *Philip*, the son of the King of Spain. At that time most Englishmen detested Spaniards—because they were Roman Catholics and because the King of Spain was the most powerful king in the whole of Europe.

Philip was not a good or kind husband to Mary. When he became the king of Spain he returned immediately to Spain, and came back only *once* to see his wife. Mary knew that her husband did not love her, and she was very unhappy.

During Mary's unhappy reign England joined Spain in a war against France. Mary did that only to please her husband. In that war, *Calais*, the last English possession in France, was captured by the French in 1558—over 200 years after King Edward III had captured it after the battle of *Crecy*.

The loss of Calais made the English dislike their queen all the more, and it upset Mary so much that she cried bitterly, and said, "When I die, you will find the word 'Calais' written upon my heart."

Few people in England were sad when Mary, Queen of England, died in 1558. All English people hoped that her step-sister *Elizabeth*, who was a Protestant, would prove a better queen, and would govern as well as her father King Henry VIII had done.

ELIZABETH QUEEN OF ENGLAND AND MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, 1567 A.D.

The days of "Good Queen Bess", as Queen Elizabeth is sometimes called, saw some of the most stormy times in the history of England.

Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his queen Anne Boleyn. As a young girl she was not very happy, for her mother had been executed when Elizabeth was only three years old.

She was a very clever girl, and very well educated. She could speak and write French and Latin ; and she learnt also Greek, Spanish and Italian.

In many ways her life was full of excitement, plots and adventures.

As a young woman she lived amongst the troubled times of her father's quarrel with the Pope of Rome, when her father finally made himself head of the English Church.

When she became Queen she was concerned for many years with the adventures of her cousin, *Mary Stuart*, who was Queen of Scotland.

Mary Queen of Scots is one of the most tragic persons of history. Scotland was still a separate kingdom, although England was trying hard to arrange that the two countries should come under one crown.

King James V of Scotland died in 1542 when his daughter *Mary Stuart* was a baby only a week old. This little baby thus became the queen of Scotland. She is always known as *Mary Queen of Scots*.



QUEEN ELIZABETH.

She grew up a very beautiful girl, was strictly educated and very carefully trained to be the queen and ruler of her country.

At the age of six years, the little queen of Scotland was sent to France, to live with her mother's relations. She stayed there for many years, and grew up in the bright splendour and gaiety of the court of the French king, where she continued her education and was brought up as a *Catholic*.

When Mary was fifteen, she married the *Dauphin*, which was the name always given to the eldest son of the king of France. He also was only fifteen years old.

Shortly after this, the king of France died, and Mary's young husband became king. In this way, Mary, as a young wife of sixteen, became *Queen of France* as well as being the *Queen of Scotland*.

Unfortunately for poor Mary, her life as queen at the French court, which she thoroughly enjoyed, ended when she was only nineteen, for then her young French husband died.

Meanwhile, the Scots thought that their queen should live in her own country of Scotland, and Mary also thought that she should return to her native land, and be a real queen there.

When this beautiful and most gracious young woman returned to Scotland, she received a wonderful welcome in Edinburgh from her nobles and

subjects. All the Scots thought that no-one ever had such a beautiful lady for their queen.

Soon it was whispered that she and her cousin *Lord Darnley*, a Scottish noble, had fallen in love



MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS ENTERS EDINBURGH IN TRIUMPH.

with each other. And these whispers were true, for in a short time she and he were married.

It seemed as if the young queen would have a most happy reign, in which she would do her best for her subjects, who, in their turn, would look up to her and love her for her beautiful, charming and gracious self.

But alas ! Poor Mary had had the wrong training in the gay court of France. Scotland seemed so bleak and its people seemed so rough compared with France and its 'gay' people. Also, Mary was very headstrong, and always wanted her own way.

Soon some of the Scottish nobles began to be very annoyed with their obstinate young queen.

First, Mary was a *Roman Catholic*, and most of the Scots were *Protestants* and hated Roman Catholics. Then, secondly, Mary thought that kings and queens could do as they liked—just as she had seen happen in France. She refused to understand that the nobles and the Scottish *Parliament* should have much to say in the government of the country.

Poor Mary was also beginning to be very unhappy with her husband Lord Darnley, who had turned out to be not a very nice man and a worse husband. She looked more and more to her Italian secretary, *David Rizzio*, for sympathy and advice.

Lord Darnley became very jealous of Rizzio's power, and he and his friends planned to kill him. One night, Mary was with some lady friends and David Rizzio in her home in *Holyrood Palace* in Edinburgh. They had just finished their evening meal, and were chatting in her sitting room, when in rushed Lord Darnley and some friends, with swords and daggers drawn.

They rushed at Rizzio, and, although Mary tried

to stop them, they dragged him out and stabbed him, leaving him dying in the palace.

From that moment Mary hated her brutal husband.



DAVID RIZZIO BEGS MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS TO SAVE HIM.

The next year a terrible scandal occurred. Darnley had had small-pox, and Mary used to visit him in the house where he was being looked after in Edinburgh. Then, one night, there was a terrible explosion in that house, and it was found that Darnley had been murdered, by being blown up with gunpowder.

Many people thought that Mary herself had had a hand in this shocking murder, for later she married the *Earl of Bothwell*, whom everyone knew had something to do with the murder of Darnley.

The whole of Scotland was in a ferment about this ; and civil war broke out, in which certain nobles fought against Mary, with the idea of turning her off the throne of Scotland.



MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS ESCAPING FROM LOCH LEVEN CASTLE.

In one battle—in the year 1567—Mary and her army were defeated by the Scottish nobles, and she was imprisoned in *Loch Leven Castle*, which is situated in the middle of a lake.

While she was in this castle, her gracious charm and her beauty tempted one of the pages there to help her to escape. One dark night a small boat was rowed silently across the lake to the castle. Mary swiftly got into this boat, and the boat then left the castle as quietly as it had come. It took Mary across

the lake to the mainland, where some friends were waiting for her with horses. They galloped away in the darkness.

Mary had many adventures in Scotland after this, but, in another battle against her nobles, she was again defeated. This time she felt that all was lost, and she fled out of Scotland—*into England*.

At that time her cousin, Queen Elizabeth, was queen of England, and Mary was also *the next heir to the English throne*.

Queen Elizabeth refused to help her cousin Mary, mainly because she was afraid that Mary's many Roman Catholic friends in England might try to make Mary the queen of England in place of herself.

There was great hatred in those days between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Elizabeth was a Protestant, and most people in England wanted their kings and queens to be Protestants.

For these reasons Mary Queen of Scots was kept a prisoner in England for eighteen years. That does not mean that she was in a cell, like a convict. She lived in a castle and had nearly everything she wanted—except freedom to go where she liked outside the castle.

Poor Mary, who had started as a young queen so bright and gay ! She wrote many letters to her cousin Elizabeth, asking for her freedom, but Elizabeth always refused. You can imagine poor

Mary's thoughts during those long eighteen years, and how she often remembered her many adventures —the fun and gaiety of the French court, her life as the young and beautiful queen of France and queen

of Scotland, her husbands, the people she loved and the people she hated, and the many plots that were mixed up with her name !

Her mind must always have been on how she could escape from her prison in England, and so live an ordinary life again, as a woman and *as a queen*.

It has been said that many Roman Catholics

in England and abroad plotted to release Mary, to kill Elizabeth and to make Mary Queen of England. At last, Mary was thought to be mixed up with these plots, and as Elizabeth and Parliament had been troubled with that kind of thing for eighteen years, Parliament decided to bring Mary Queen of Scots for trial. She was accused of plotting against the queen's life.



MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

At the trial Mary was found guilty and sentenced to death. She appealed to her cousin Elizabeth, but Elizabeth felt that Mary was guilty, and that as long as she was alive there would always be plots and possible wars against England and its queen.

Hence, as queen, but very reluctantly, she signed Mary's death warrant, and Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle, in 1587.

Thus ended the life of one of the most tragic figures in history, and of one of the most clever, beautiful and charming women. It was said of her :

“ She ruled everything by her word, and by the charm of her presence, which troubled every heart. Every gift was united in her—except self-control.”

Even *John Knox*, the great Scottish preacher who was the head of the Scottish Protestants, and who detested Roman Catholics, said of her :

“ There is some enchantment in her, by which men are bewitched.”

1. Write the story of Mary Queen of Scots until she was seventeen years old.

2. Write two sentences about each of the following :—David Rizzio, Earl of Bothwell, Loch Leven Castle, John Knox.

3. Why was Mary Queen of Scots executed ?

4. Ask your teacher for the names of some story books about Mary Queen of Scots.

FRANCIS DRAKE SAILS ROUND THE WORLD, 1577—1580 A.D. SPANISH TREASURE SHIPS

FRANCIS Drake was a Devonshire boy. He was born at *Tavistock* in 1541, when the young Edward VI was king of England.

His father and mother were quite humble people, who had to work hard for their living. When Francis was a small boy his father had to leave his home in Devonshire in a hurry, because he was a *Protestant*.

He set up his new home in Kent, where he and his family lived in the hull of an old ship, lying in the river Medway. There the father of Francis worked for the king's navy.

Most of the brothers and sisters of Francis were born on this old ship, and you can imagine the merry games they had as children.

As young Francis grew up, he loved the sea and became very excited at the thought that one day he might be a real sailor himself. When he was old enough, his first work was taking short voyages to Europe, for the owner of a small ship.

Francis loved this life. He did his work so well, and was such a clever, brave and charming young

man, that his master, at his death, left his ship to Francis. You can imagine how happy Francis was to have a ship that was all his own.

Some years later Francis felt that he wanted greater adventures, so he sold his ship, and in 1567, when he was 26 years old, he joined his cousin *John Hawkins* in a voyage. On this voyage John Hawkins was taking slaves from Africa to America, where negro slaves could be sold for very high prices.

At that time Spain was the greatest country in the world. Spain claimed America and its trade for herself; and she refused to allow British ships to make voyages to America.

But Hawkins and Drake took no notice of what the king of Spain said. Their ships sailed to America just the same, although they knew that they were in danger of being sunk as *pirates*.

Drake and Hawkins were very unlucky on this particular voyage. In a fight between Hawkins' ships and Spanish ships, the Spaniards did so much damage that Hawkins and Drake lost most of their ships that had cost them so much money to fit out.

On his return to England, Drake determined to have his revenge on the Spaniards. He intended to sail to America, way-lay Spanish ships, and seize any treasure he could get from them.

For the next ten years Francis Drake planned and

plotted and did these things, although England was not at war with Spain. His headquarters were at *Plymouth*, and sailors eagerly joined his ships.

Many dangerous and exciting adventures had he and his sailor lads from Devon, who were called the *Sea-dogs of Devon*. They hated the Spaniards, and never seemed to think that they themselves were really *Pirates of the High Seas*, as of course they were.

In 1573 at *Nombre de Dios Bay*, with great cunning and bravery, he captured an enormous amount of treasure from the Spaniards, and returned to Plymouth with his ship full of Spanish gold.

Drake was a great hero when he returned to Plymouth ; and soon all England was talking about him and his exploits. Queen Elizabeth heard of these deeds, but she pretended that she did not approve of them, because she did not wish mighty Spain to go to war against England.

It was during the voyage to *Nombre de Dios Bay* that Francis Drake made up his mind to attempt a really great adventure, namely, to sail right round the world.

This is how that idea came to him. He had landed on the east of the Isthmus of Darien, which is the narrow neck of land that joins the broad North American continent to the broad South American continent. He and his men had been climbing up

from the coast all day, until they had reached some of the much higher land running down the centre of the isthmus.

Wishing to see what kind of land was farther west,



FRANCIS DRAKE SEEING THE PACIFIC OCEAN FOR THE FIRST TIME—FROM A TALL TREE.

Drake climbed a high tree, and there he saw a most surprising and unexpected sight. A great broad ocean spread before him ! He knew that he must be gazing for the first time on the waters of the *Pacific Ocean*, that Magellan had discovered about fifty-seven years before.

Drake swore that he would sail an English ship on

that unknown sea at the first opportunity, in spite of the Spaniards.

Thus, when Drake arrived at Plymouth after his great adventure at Nombre de Dios Bay, he began his plans for sailing the Pacific Ocean. Remember that he was now a very wealthy man.

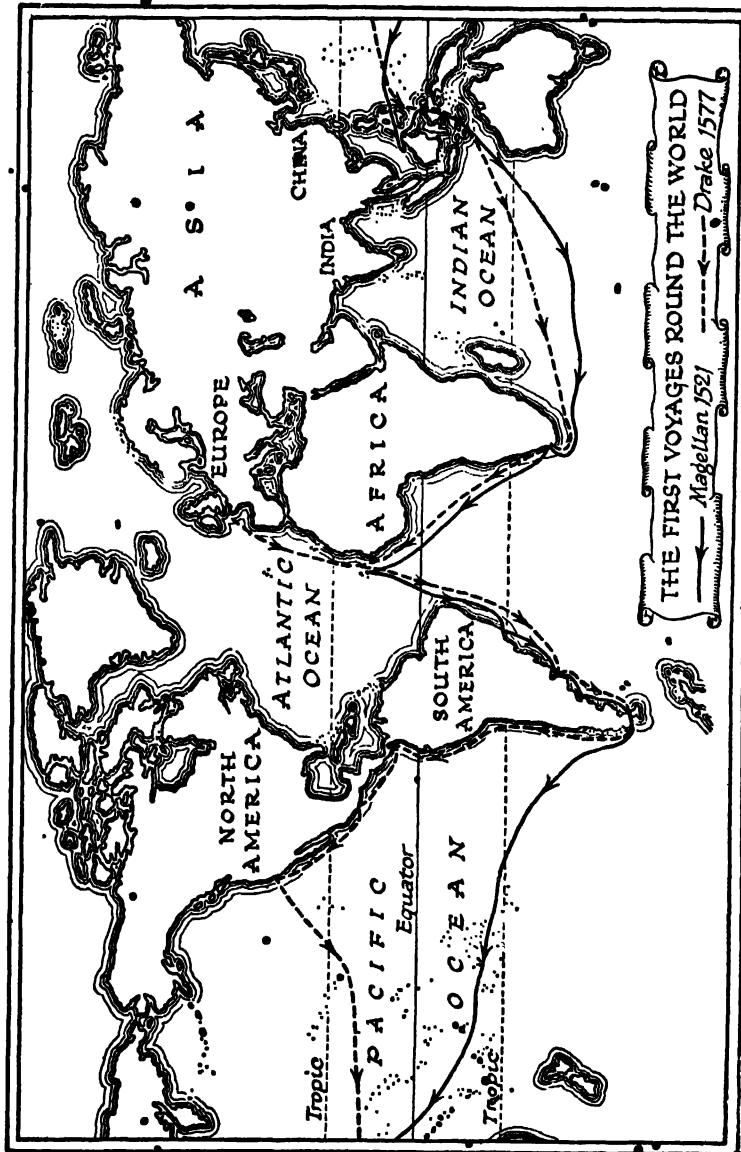
Gradually he had fitted out five stout ships, the largest being the *Pelican* of which he was the captain. On the 13th December, 1577, the five ships started out from Plymouth harbour with 160 men. The crews were not told that they were going into unknown seas.

Drake had made up his mind that he was going to follow the route of the great sailor Ferdinand Magellan, who had first sailed round the world by way of the Magellan Straits in 1520.

Before the ships reached the southern tip of South America, two of them had to be left behind.

Six months after leaving Plymouth, Drake and the men on his three remaining ships reached a place where, standing on the shore, was a gibbet, on which Magellan 57 years before had hanged some mutineers.

Nearly two months later, the three ships began the dangerous voyage through the Straits of Magellan, on the unknown seas between the high and steep grey cliffs. Meanwhile Drake had changed the name of his ship to the *Golden Hind*.



How long did each of these voyages take? How long would they take today by a great liner? How long would they take today by an aeroplane?

It took 16 days to make their way through the terrible sea passage. At times Drake himself rowed a small boat ahead of the ships, in order to find out a safe passage. Then one of the ships was sunk, and another turned back, so that only Drake's ship the *Golden Hind* was left to continue the voyage.

As the *Golden Hind* entered the Pacific, that ocean was no longer a "peaceful" ocean, and a storm that lasted six weeks threatened to end Drake's adventure, with death for all.

But, at last, the sea grew calm, and Drake sailed due north, along the west coast of South America. They seized a Spanish ship at *Valparaiso* harbour, and the Spaniards on land then knew that an English ship was in the Pacific Ocean, and that its captain was the famous English "pirate" Francis Drake, who had taken *Nombre de Dios* five years before.

Sailing due north towards *Lima*, Drake heard that a huge Spanish treasure ship loaded with gold and treasure was sailing for Panama. He and his men captured this huge ship, and loaded the gold, silver and jewels on to the *Golden Hind*.

After capturing other Spanish prizes until his ship was laden with treasure, Drake thought that he had fully revenged himself on the king of Spain, so he decided to return to England. He knew that it would be unwise to try to go back through the

Magellan Straits, as Spanish ships would be waiting for him. He decided to risk all, and go home by sailing due *west* and crossing the mighty Pacific.

For 68 days they sailed west, without sight of land ; the sailors often thought they would never see land again, but Drake never lost hope.

When at last land was sighted, it was in the form of islands off the coast of Asia. There they landed, hoping to rest and repair their ship, but the natives were such thieves, that they decided to leave. They called those islands the *Islands of Robbers*, which name they still have to-day.

Some days later they had a terrible accident. The *Golden Hind* was driven on to a sharp rock, and there it stuck fast, unable to move. Drake and his men thought that their last days had come. But Drake encouraged his men, and after pumping his ship for hours, and throwing overboard some of their cargo, including three tons of cloves and eight big guns, the wind changed " by the special grace of God, and the happy gale drove them off again."

Six months after that they reached the Cape of Good Hope, and three months later they arrived at Plymouth, on November 3rd, 1580, after an absence of three years. They were the first Englishmen to have sailed round the world. . .

By the people of Plymouth, and by the whole of Britain they were treated as great heroes. They had

also returned as very wealthy men, most of the wealth having been taken from Spanish ships.

The king of Spain sent angry messages to Queen Elizabeth complaining of this pirate and robber Drake, and said that he expected her to have Drake hanged. But the queen was secretly delighted to have such brave sea-men as Drake and his Sea Dogs.

Drake sailed the *Golden Hind* to Deptford, taking much gold, silver and jewels as a present for the queen herself. The queen and her nobles went on board this famous ship, and for his great services, the queen knighted Drake on the deck, in front of all his men and her courtiers.

Henceforth he was *Sir Francis Drake*, the great sailor hero of England. He became a yet greater hero a few years later, when King Philip of Spain sent the Spanish Armada to invade England in 1588.

1. Write the dates 1577-1580. Opposite them write the title of this chapter.
2. On a blank map of the world trace Drake's voyage round the world. Mark Nombre Dios Bay, Spain, Britain, the Cape of Good Hope.
3. Write two sentences about each of the following:—John Hawkins, the Sea-Dogs of Devon, Nombre de Dios Bay, the “Golden Hind.”
4. You would enjoy reading “With Drake on the Spanish Main,” by H. Strang. Try to get it.



“RISE, SIR FRANCIS !”
Queen Elizabeth knighting Francis Drake on board the “Golden Hind” at Deptford.

QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFIES THE MIGHTY
KING OF SPAIN—THE “INVINCIBLE”
SPANISH ARMADA, 1588 A.D.

In many ways Queen Elizabeth was one of the finest sovereigns England has ever had. She lived in very

difficult times, but in her reign Englishmen did some very wonderful things that the world will never forget.

Not only great sailors and adventurers like Drake and Hawkins, but great writers such as *William Shakespeare* and *Francis Bacon* lived in her reign.

Elizabeth herself encouraged all these great men, and English

people were very proud to have brave and clever “Good Queen Bess” as their queen.

We have heard of some of the troubles of Elizabeth’s time, when we read about *Mary Stuart*, Queen of Scots.



MEN AND WOMEN AT THE
TIME OF ELIZABETH.

The most stirring event in Elizabeth's long reign was when the king of Spain, Philip II, decided to invade England with a great fleet of ships.

At that time Spain was the most powerful country in the world. Not only had she power over many countries in Europe, but she claimed most of America and its great wealth.

After Drake's voyage round the world, and Elizabeth's refusal to punish him for his acts against Spain, King Philip of Spain determined to conquer England. He made up his mind to build the largest "armada" or fleet the world had ever seen. It was to be an *Invincible* armada, that is, one that could not be beaten. With this armada he intended to land a large army in England, and take possession of England, as he had already taken possession of the *Netherlands* and other countries.

In the year 1587, for many months the ports of Spain were very busy, building great, new and well-armed ships, larger and stronger than any that had ever been built before. Enormous amounts of timber, iron, cannon, guns, armour, swords, food and other stores were sent to these ports of Spain.

It was a happy day for Philip II when the many ships were ready for their work of invading England. What a mighty *Armada* they formed !

Meanwhile, Queen Elizabeth and her ministers knew what was going on, and they also made their



BRITISH SHIPS DEFEAT THE MIGHTY SPANISH ARMADA IN 1588.

Compare these ships with all the other ships shown in this book.

plans. Ships were prepared, armies gathered together, the beacon fires made ready for lighting, and everyone in England was waiting, determined not to be beaten by the hated Spaniards.

• One night Sir Francis Drake took some ships quietly out of harbour and sailed towards Spain. Unnoticed they entered *Cadiz* harbour, where stood many of the greatest Spanish ships, waiting for orders to set sail. By his cunning and cleverness, Drake was able to set many of these ships on fire, and then to escape back to England.

Every Englishman was proud of this great exploit of the brave hero Sir Francis Drake, who jokingly said :

“I have been singeing the king of Spain’s beard !”

• Soon everyone in England was laughing at this phrase, and telling how Drake had “singed the king of Spain’s beard.”

But King Philip was not to be stopped by such acts. He had more ships built and others repaired, until he had as strong an armada as before. All Spain was then ready for the invasion of the small country England, which was going to be taught a great lesson—at least, that is what the Spaniards thought !

In July, 1588, the great armada left the ports of Spain—126 proud ships. On board were 17,000 soldiers, 8,000 sailors, 85 doctors, and 180 priests—the priests were there to convert the English, after the latter had been conquered:

As the huge ships sailed up the English Channel they were a wonderful sight. On board were the nobles, knights and captains of Spain with their shining helmets and weapons. They had not the slightest doubt that in a few days the English would be conquered.



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

Meanwhile, at *Plymouth Hoe*, Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher, and Lord Howard, the Lord High Admiral of the English fleet, were having a game of bowls on the smooth bowling green there.

As the Spanish ships appeared over the horizon, messengers ran to give the news to the famous English leaders.

At this exciting news

most of the leaders wished to rush off to their ships, but Sir Francis Drake very coolly said :

“ What’s the hurry ? We have time to finish our game of bowls, and beat the Spaniards too ! ”

And they finished their game.

The Spanish Armada continued on its way, the ships forming a huge half moon on the water, and

covering over seven miles of sea. That night every beacon fire in England was lit, to warn all Englishmen, on land and sea, of the coming of the hated Spaniards.

Just before this we have a fine example of what kind of woman and queen was Queen Elizabeth. She rode to *Tilbury* to inspect her army, and to encourage the people, soldiers and sailors.

No queen of England was ever cheered as she was cheered that day. She made a wonderful speech, in which she said :

“ I have come amongst you at this time to live or die amongst you all.

“ I know that I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart of a king, and *a king of England too* ! I think foul scorn that Philip of Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm. Rather than any dishonour should grow by me, I will myself take up arms, and I myself will be your general.”

Great cheers greeted this speech, and all Englishmen knew that they would fight to the last for such a stout-hearted queen.

Now the English ships were smaller than the Spanish ships, which towered out of the water. But they had better guns, and, as they were smaller, they could move more easily than the larger Spanish ships. They swiftly followed the Spanish ships that were making for the Straits of Dover, and a number

of Spanish ships were sunk by a heavy fire from the English guns.

But still the great Spanish Armada went on, until it reached Calais. There the huge ships waited, to collect more troops from ashore.

The English captains then had a clever plan. They took some of the oldest ships, filled them with gunpowder, tar, wood and any old rubbish that would burn well. These fire ships were taken by brave men almost up to where the Spanish ships were at anchor.

Those brave men then set fire to the fire ships, and rowed away as fast as they could. The wind immediately took the fire ships straight for the Spanish ships, the fires roaring in the wind. A panic occurred among the Spaniards. Some ships caught fire. Most of the others hurriedly cut their anchor cables, and tried to sail out of the harbour as quickly as possible. In the panic, some ships smashed into one another, while others managed to get out of the harbour without their anchors.

The English ships outside the harbour were waiting for them. Soon a great battle was raging, and the Spanish ships received a terrible punishment from the cannon of the smaller and more easily moved English ships.

The Spanish admiral and captains knew that they could not now invade England, so they decided to

try to get back to Spain as best as they could. They could not sail back the way they had come, because the English ships would prevent them. They decided to go back by sailing north, right round the north of *Scotland* and *Ireland* and so back to Spain.

The English ships began following them; still doing as much damage as they could. But they had to give this up, for they soon ran out of powder.

Meanwhile the Spanish ships continued their long voyage. Then the real disaster came to them. For the winds were fierce, and the large, clumsy ships were not made for rough seas. When they reached the north and the west of Scotland many were wrecked on the rocky shores. Those that were able to continue struggled along the west of Ireland. But, winds, waves, storms and rocks were too much for most of them.

More ships were wrecked on those hard shores. As the Spaniards struggled ashore, most of them were killed immediately and everything of value—their gold, treasure, wonderful clothes—taken from the remains of their ships. At one place alone 1,100 bodies were counted on the shore.

Of the mighty *Invincible* Spanish Armada of 126 ships, only 50 ships just managed to get back to Spain, and only about one-third of the 25,000 soldiers and sailors, who left Spain so sure of themselves a few weeks before.

This defeat was the greatest defeat the Spaniards had ever had, and they never recovered from it.

As you can imagine, the people of England were jubilant over this wonderful news, and they were prouder than ever of their queen, their brave "Sea-dogs," and of being Englishmen themselves. Never again need they be afraid of Spain.

Queen Elizabeth had a medal struck to keep this wonderful victory in memory for all time. On one side of the medal was written :

"God blew with his breath and they were scattered."

1. At the top of a fresh page in your notebook write the words "The Spanish Armada." Write the correct date by the side of these words.
2. Why was King Philip of Spain so angry with Queen Elizabeth and the English ?
3. Describe how Sir Francis Drake "singed the King of Spain's beard."
4. Make a careful drawing of a Spanish galleon.
5. Write out the speech made by Queen Elizabeth to her troops at Tilbury. This speech is worth learning.

* * * * *

Are you proud of your Book
of
THE MARCH OF TIME IN BRITAIN?

